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AGENDA REPORT

TO: DEANNA J. SANTANA
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Fred Blackwell

SUBJECT: Lakeview Dog Play Area Appeal

DATE: November 7, 2012

City Administrator
Approval

Date

11/19/12

COUNCIL DISTRICT: #3

RECOMMENDATION

Planning Staff recommends that the City Council adopt:

A Resolution Upholding The Appeal (A12-062), Of The Decision Of The Oakland Planning Commission, And Granting Approval Of An Application For A Minor Conditional Use Permit For The Creation Of A New Dog Play Area At Lakeview Park (Planning Case File No. CU11-208)

Alternatively, should the Council wish to deny the Appeal and approve the creation of a New Dog Play Area at Lakeview Park, the City Council may adopt:

A Resolution Denying The Appeal (A12-062), Of The Decision Of The Oakland Planning Commission And Denying The Application For A Minor Conditional Use Permit For The Creation Of A New Dog Play Area At Lakeview Park (Planning Case File No. CU11-208)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project Applicant, the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR), requested approval from the City Planning Commission for a Conditional Use Permit to establish a Dog Play Area at the northeast corner of Lakeview Park, an existing public park located at MacArthur Blvd. and Lakeshore Ave., near Lake Merritt. The project is sponsored by the Oakland Dog Owners' Group (ODOG) and OPR.

The Dog Play Area would provide a fenced area for dog owners to exercise their dogs off-leash. It would be approximately 20,778 s.f. in area (including a 17,286 s.f. section for large dogs and a 3,492 s.f. section for small dogs), and would be subject to park rules regarding access hours (6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.), and other rules as identified in a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Oakland and ODOG, which can be found here within *Attachment A*,

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the May 2 Planning Commission Staff Report, as Attachment D to that previous report. Pursuant to Planning Code Section 17.134.040(B)(1), the Planning Director referred this application to the City Planning Commission for a decision due to the prominence of its location as well as the intense public comment (see within *Attachment A*, the May 2 Planning Commission staff report, as Attachment J to that previous report).

On May 2, 2012, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and, after presentations by Staff, the project proponents and opponents, denied the project. As reasons for denial, the Commissioners cited concerns about whether or not Lakeview Park is an appropriate location for this use. An appeal was filed by ODOG on May 14th, 2012; that appeal is included as *Attachment B* to this Report. OPR was not a party in the appeal. The Planning Code provides for the appeal of the decision to the Oakland City Council for a hearing and final decision.

OUTCOME

Approval of this Appeal would result in a reversal of the Planning Commission's denial of the Dog Play Area project. The Zoning entitlements would be effectively approved, and the Applicant would be free to go forward with other steps necessary to begin implementation, i.e., obtaining PRAC and City Council approval to change the Oakland Municipal Code to add Lakeview Park to the list of parks approved for dogs, and obtain the necessary building and other permits required.

Alternatively, Denial of this Appeal would affirm the Planning Commission's decision of May 2, 2012, denying this proposed dog park project.

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Oakland Municipal Code

The Oakland Municipal Code (OMC), Section 6.04.080 prohibits dogs in public parks, leashed or unleashed, with very few exceptions. Subsection (C) of this Code states that, "Dogs are permitted to be off-leash when authorized in a writing or resolution by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and then as amended therein. The parks where off-leash areas are currently permitted in designated areas include:

- Hardy Park
- Mosswood Park
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Park (a.k.a. Grove-Shafter)
- Joaquin Miller
- Jefferson Park

Currently, the nearest Oakland dog park is in Mosswood Park, about two miles away from the proposed site. Should the Council approve the appeal, the project would still need specific approval from PRAC and the Council would still need to amend the OMC to incorporate Lakeview Park into the list of dog-approved parks prior to implementation.

Lake Merritt Park Master Plan

The Lake Merritt Park Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in 2002 as a Master Plan document providing a comprehensive set of recommendations for future development and activity around Lake Merritt. The Plan includes recommendations for an off-leash dog play area in Lakeview Park at the currently proposed site.

Public Process/Hearings

The Lakeview Dog Play area has been presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) on three occasions and to the Planning Commission on one occasion. The PRAC meetings took place in 2006, 2010 and 2011. At the 2006 and 2010 meetings, the PRAC approved the project unanimously. At the 2011 meeting, PRAC heard presentations by both ODOG and a group opposing the project, Save Astro Park (SAP), which presented an alternative site, the former Police Horse Stables site, and the vote ended in a split decision.

Planning Staff found that the proposed project is of reasonable size while still preserving the majority of the park for existing uses. The proposed Dog Play Area would in fact take up approximately 23% of the 3.66 acres open field portion of Lakeview Park area, leaving the remaining 77% for field area and the Astro Park tot lot available for other uses. Due to its adjacency to the Lake Merritt Park (Lakeside Park), it is connected to other larger open spaces. Also, since the project serves an unmet need, it was recommended in the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan and supported by PRAC in the past, Planning Staff recommended approval of the project. In recognition of the number and intensity of opposition that had developed over recent years, Planning Staff also provided alternative findings for denial in the event that the Planning Commission found the proposed location inappropriate for this use.

At the May 2, 2012, Planning Commission hearing, over 100 speakers presented testimony both for and against the project. Issues raised at the Planning Commission hearing include: impacts to the existing open (un-programmed) multi-purpose field area; maintenance/landscaping; safety/security; aesthetics, parking/traffic, noise/odors/health. The Planning Commission expressed its support for a dog play area in concept, however, the Commission viewed the proposed site as an inappropriate location and would like to see further exploration of other locations. The Planning Commission therefore denied the application.

ANALYSIS

The main issues raised by opponents of the project included:

- (a) Impacts on the existing multi-purpose, unprogrammed field area;
- (b) Ongoing maintenance and landscaping;
- (c) Impacts to the aesthetic/visual quality of the park, and
- (d) Health, safety and security of park users.

(a) Impacts on the existing multi-purpose, unprogrammed field area

Opponents argued that the 20,779 s.f dog play area would displace a large portion of an existing grass field area that is currently used by a variety of park users for a variety of recreational purposes.

(b) Ongoing Maintenance and Landscaping

Since the project relies in part on volunteers and donations for its funding and maintenance, opponents were concerned that there are no guarantees that funding will be available to ensure its ongoing maintenance. Supporters pointed out that much of the funding has already been raised, and the proposed MOU/Maintenance Plan developed between the City of Oakland and ODOG ensures the project will be maintained on an ongoing basis. Maintenance includes waste disposal, periodic replacement of bark chips, landscape maintenance, etc.

(c) Impacts to the aesthetic/visual quality of the park

The Dog Play Area would be enclosed by a 4-foot tall, ornamental iron fence at the perimeter, and screened or partially screened by flowering vines. The perimeter fence would be set back a minimum of 10 feet from the edge of the sidewalk along MacArthur Blvd., 25 feet from the edge of the sidewalk at Lakeshore Ave., and 25 feet from the closest edge of the Astro Park Children's Play Area. Re-purposed wood chip ground cover would be used and replaced periodically. Landscaping including vines at the perimeter fence and sprinklers would be installed, and trees would be added as part of the second phase of the project once funds are available.

(d) Safety and Security of Park Users

Given its proximity to the Astro Park, a children's play area, opponents are concerned about the safety of children and other park users. The Applicant has addressed this issue as follows: The Dog Play Area would be subject to the existing park rules regarding access hours. Dogs must be on leash to approach the dog run and will not need to get in the way of activities on the field or in the Astro Park "tot lot" area. Children would be protected from the dogs and dog run by a four foot fence around the dog area, by 35 foot distance from the play equipment (25 feet from the playground buffer zone) and by the requirement that dogs stay leashed until they are within the dog enclosure.

Planning Staff found that the proposed project is of reasonable size while still preserving the majority of the park for existing uses. Due to its adjacency to the Lake Merritt Park (Lakeside Park), it is connected to other larger open spaces. Staff believes that the project will be well-maintained on an ongoing basis, due to the proposed MOU/Maintenance Plan between the City of Oakland and ODOG, the inclusion of a Condition of Approval requiring a 12-month review of the project, and the experience of Staff that this has not given rise to major issues in other existing Oakland dog play areas.

The Planning Commission ultimately denied the project based on concerns about whether the Lakeview Park site was an appropriate location, and adopted alternative findings for denial that were provided by Planning Staff in the event of such a determination by the Commission. Findings for denial cited the alternative arguments, including the potential for adverse impacts due to the displacement of a portion of the designated open space area on a relatively small park site, as well potential aesthetic and safety-related impacts site.

The project was appealed by representatives of ODOG. The Appellants point out that this project has been in the works and publicly vetted since 1998. The City Council had unanimously approved Lake Merritt Park Master Plan in 2002, which included a fenced dog play area at Lakeview Park. The Adams Point Urban Design Plan, which also included a dog play area in Lakeview Park, was adopted in 2002, after much public review and comment, and the dog play area received PRAC approval in 2006 and 2010. It was not until 2011 when PRAC heard presentations from a group that had formed in opposition to the project. That meeting resulted in a split decision. In addition, the Appellants argue that the alternative locations referred to at the public hearing had been explored and were found not viable, and that to deny the 40% of dog owners in the area the dog play area would be ignoring 14 years of efforts and approvals, and would exclude a significant group of residents from using the Lake Merritt parklands unless they leave their dogs at home.

SPECIFIC GROUNDS FOR APPEAL:

The general grounds for appeal include: (1) the evidence and/or lack of evidence does not support the findings for denial, and (2) the findings do not support the decision and, acting as it did, the Planning Commission acted in excess of, and outside of, its jurisdiction. The Appellant states that the findings made by Planning Staff to approve the project met all the requirements to be legally sustainable; however the findings for denial are not supported by substantial evidence but rather on speculation.

1. Because findings for denial under Section 17.134.050 (Conditional Use Permit findings), are based on speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or evidence which is clearly erroneous, they cannot support a decision for denial.

Size of Park

The appellant states that the size of Lakeview Park was erroneously listed as 3.66 acres, and characterized as in the "smaller range" of parks designated as Neighborhood Parks in OSCAR, whereas it is actually 6.7 acres.

Safety of Children

The Appellant states that any claims regarding safety issues due to proximity to Astro Park are unsubstantiated and, to the contrary, there is substantiated evidence showing that after almost ten years at Hardy Park, dogs playing in a fenced off area in even closer proximity to a tot lot do not create any safety issues.

Maintenance and health-related dog waste issues

The Appellant states that the maintenance required for this proposed park is based on the proven maintenance and waste clean-up at the successful Joaquin Miller dog park; any evidence to the contrary is based on unsubstantiated opinion.

Fencing

The Appellant states that there is substantial evidence in the record showing that the proposed vine-covered fencing will blend in with the green field area and, like many other parts of the Lake Merritt area that are fenced off (e.g., the Japanese Gardens, Children's Fairyland, the lawn bowling area, boat docks, tot lot area near the Rotary Nature Center, etc.), will not impact the desirability of the park.

Wood Chips

The Appellant refutes the statement that wood chips would adversely impact the visual quality of the high-profile location, arguing that the wood chips would be camouflaged by vine-covered fencing. Further the Tot Lot's surface is the same wood chip material and there are no adverse visual effects there.

Impact on operation of surrounding area

The Appellant refutes the statement that the one-half acre dog park may compromise other current users, stating that the dog park would comprise only 1% of the overall Lake Merritt open space, and evidence provided at the hearing will show that the proposed location is the least used area in Lakeview Park. In addition, the Appellant makes the point that there are dedicated uses at this park and throughout Oakland parks, and they do not exclude all users but rather provide for specific needs and interests whereas a dog park at this location has been identified as an essential need for this area.

Conformity with Oakland Comprehensive Plan and other applicable plans adopted by City Council

OSCAR states this area is better suited for “active recreation”, the more specific Lake Merritt Specific Plan and Adams Point Design Plan both identify this location as one that should have a dog park.

2. Staff’s findings for support met all the legal standards (Staff’s recommendation for approval was based on an accurate assessment of the evidence in the record).

PLANNING STAFF RESPONSES TO APPEAL

Planning Staff agrees and regrets any inadvertent mischaracterization regarding the size of the park and affected portions. To clarify, Lakeview Park is in fact 6.7 acres, which is in the mid-to-upper range of Neighborhood Parks (2-10 acres), and that because it is bisected by a roadway, the portion in discussion where the existing field and tot lot are located, and where the dog play area is proposed, is a 3.66 acre portion of the overall park area. On other points, Planning Staff generally agrees with the Appellant’s arguments and continues to support the project based on findings and related conditions for project approval.

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

<i>Alternative #</i>	Deny the Appeal, and adopt a Resolution denying the appeal and upholding the Planning Commission’s denial of the Lakeview Park Dog Play Area
<i>Pros</i>	Lakeview Park would remain as it is with no new impacts on its use
<i>Cons</i>	Dog owners would not have an off-leash area to exercise their dogs in Lakeview Park. The park and surrounding Lake Merritt Park would remain as is, with dogs not permitted on or off-leash.
<i>Reason for not recommending</i>	Planning Staff continues to believe that the original findings to support/approve the project are well founded and consistent with the Oakland General Plan and other plans adopted by the Oakland City Council including the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

The project has been presented and discussed at numerous public hearings over the years, including PRAC and the Planning Commission, and has generated a tremendous amount of public interest.

In addition to various neighborhood meetings, the Lakeview Dog Play area has been presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) on three occasions and to the Planning Commission on one occasion. The PRAC meetings took place in 2006, 2010 and 2011. At each of these meetings, the PRAC heard presentations by ODOG, and at the 2011 meeting another group (a.k.a., Save Astro Park, or "SAP") made a presentation in opposition to the project.

At the May 2, 2012 Planning Commission hearing, which was the most recent public hearing, more than 100 speakers presented testimony both for and against the project.

Since the Appeal was filed, and as of this writing, approximately 175 comment letters have been received for and against the project. These are included as *Attachment C* to this Report.

COORDINATION

Staff coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, Office of Parks and Recreation, and the Budget Office in the preparation of this report.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

Cost implications from the City Council's decision to approve the appeal of the Planning Commission's decision regarding this project are as follows:

If approved, approximately 40% of the costs of the project are paid from previously allocated City funds, with approximately 60% of the funds from the partnership with the dog owners, for a total budget of around \$70,000. The Applicant notes that City funds have been earmarked for this project since before 2006 by Public Works and the City Council office. In addition, dog owners have raised \$10,000 in private and corporate funding and will bring in additional funds for the initial construction (Stage 1) of the Dog Play Area for the fence, planting (except perimeter trees) and irrigation, and all safety and access features such as ADA access, Magic Can Waste System, truck access, and basic rules signage. Stage two funding will be developed from actual users of the Dog Play Area and will fund perimeter trees, furniture, decorative entrance signage, decorative metal dog silhouettes on the fence and other amenities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

An initial outlay of approximately \$28,000 is anticipated. Ongoing maintenance will be provided by the Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG), a private organization, per the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Oakland (attached).

With more people using the dog park, the City anticipates more maintenance such as litter removal, weeding, graffiti abatement, fencing repairs, irrigation repairs, dog waste removal,

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wood chip replenishment, etc. The City estimates approximately \$15,000 per year in additional maintenance across a variety of job classifications.

PAST PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

ODOG is involved with other dog play areas in Oakland, including Mosswood Park, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park (a.k.a. Grove-Shafter), Joaquin Miller Park and Jefferson Park. Based on information received from OPR, other than some complaints regarding the proximity of dogs to active tennis play at Mosswood Park, dog play areas in Oakland have not resulted in many direct complaints.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: A Dog Play Area in Lakeview Park has the potential to draw more activity, and on a more frequent basis, to the Park and surrounding Grand Lake retail shops and restaurant area. Rather than leaving the area to use other dog play areas in Piedmont, Emeryville, etc., it would incentivize more local residents from within the community to stay in the area for their shopping and entertainment, as well as draw more people from outside of the community.

Environmental: Many of the users of the Lakeview Park Dog Play Area would be from within the community and would be more likely to be walking rather than driving to locations that are farther away in order to exercise their dogs. This would result in fewer automobile trips for local residents.

Social Equity: Dogs are not permitted on or off-leash in most of Oakland's public parks, and there are no dog-approved areas convenient to the Grand Lake / Lake Merritt neighborhoods, yet there are many dog-owners. The dog owners in these neighborhoods must travel to other parts of Oakland and/or other cities to exercise their dogs. People from all walks of life have dogs, and all dog owners would benefit from the addition of a Dog Play Area to Lakeview Park. People who live in the vicinity, especially those living in denser environments such as apartments and condominiums, and who typically don't have private yards for their dogs, would be walking to the Park regularly to take advantage of this amenity rather than have to drive to farther, less-accessible locations or not go at all. Those who do not drive, including elderly people, would have a place to go without needing to use an automobile.

CEQA

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines categorically exempts specific types of projects from environmental review. The following is an analysis citing the CEQA

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exemptions, each of which as a separate and independent basis, that apply to this project, as well as potential exceptions to the exemptions, and why these exceptions do not apply to this project.

Section 15301 - Existing Facilities:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, relates to existing facilities, and includes minor alterations to existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of an existing use.

No new or altered structures are proposed with the Dog Play Area project. Only minor alterations to existing public park facility, including installation of a 4' high ornamental fence, planting of flowers and vines, and wood chips for the surface. This will result in negligible or no expansion of the existing use.

Section 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 lists as categorical exemptions certain minor public or private alterations to land that, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes.

15304(b) New gardening or landscaping, including the replacement of existing conventional landscaping with water efficient or fire resistant landscaping.

The project proposes to install landscaping, including vines and flowers, selected with input from the City of Oakland Public Works and Parks and Recreation Staff to ensure it is low-maintenance, water efficient and fire resistant. The landscaping would be primarily along the perimeter ornamental fence enclosure. Grass within the enclosed dog play area would be replaced with wood chips that would be replaced approximately three times per year to ensure a clean and healthy environment. Irrigation would be provided and maintained by the City of Oakland.

Section 15332 – In-Fill Development Projects:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15332 consists of projects characterizes as in-fill development meeting the conditions described in this section.

- (a) The project is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and all applicable general plan policies as well as with applicable zoning designation and regulations.*

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- (b) The proposed development occurs within city limits on a project site of no more than five acres substantially surrounded by urban uses.*
- (c) The project site has no value as habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species.*
- (d) Approval of the project would not result in any significant effect relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality.*
- (e) The site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services.*

The proposal is to establish a 20,778 s.f Dog Play Area at Lakeview Park, which is an existing City of Oakland public park consisting of a total area of 158,994 s.f , and which is located within the Oakland city limits and is substantially surrounded by urban uses. The construction of the dog park will be relatively minor, consisting of a 4' tall metal perimeter fence, landscaping and a permeable surface of wood chips. Such minor construction should pose no environmental impacts under normal circumstances. The site has no value as habitat for any category of protected species, and would not affect air quality or water quality. The Dog Play Area would operate under a proposed MOU between the City of Oakland and the Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG) to ensure that installation of landscaping and maintenance is carried out as appropriate to ensure no adverse impacts will result on the neighborhood or the City of Oakland. The project is not expected to generate any substantial vehicular traffic; therefore, traffic impacts are not expected to occur.

Section 15061(b)(3) – No possibility of significant effect on the environment:

CEQA Guidelines Article 5, Section 15061 states that once a lead agency has determined that an activity is a project subject to CEQA, a lead agency shall determine whether the project is exempt from CEQA. Further, Section 15061 (b)(3) states that a project is exempt from CEQA if “The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects, which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.”

The CEQA Exemption findings contained herein support Planning Staff’s determination that the project will not cause a significant effect on the environment. As described herein and in other parts of the Report, the project is consistent with the General Plan, Lake Merritt Park Master Plan, the Planning Code, and other applicable City of Oakland documents. The minor nature and scope of the project, i.e., erecting a 4’ high ornamental fence, planting vines and flowers, for the creation of a Dog Play Area within an existing public park (Lakeview Park), will not have a significant adverse impact on public health, aesthetics including scenic vistas, historic resources,

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traffic, etc. These findings are further supported by the Memorandum of Understanding and Conditions of Project Approval that are designed to ensure ongoing maintenance of the project.

Exceptions. *CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2* lists the following project types for which Categorical Exemptions may not apply. The following section discusses whether the project would be subject to any of these exceptions. The exceptions are presented in *italics*, followed by a discussion about how the project is not subject to each exception.

- (a) *Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.*

Class 3 does not apply because it refers to the construction of new, small facilities or structures, equipment and facilities in small structures, and conversion of existing small structures from one use to another, none of which are within the scope of the Dog Play Area project.

Class 4 refers to minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land (See detailed discussion in 15304 Minor Alterations to Land, below),

Class 5 refers to Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations, such as minor lot line adjustments, encroachment permits and reversion to acreage, none of which are within the scope of this project.

Class 6 consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management and resource evaluation activities, which are not within the scope of this project.

Class 11 refers to the construction or replacement of minor structures accessory to existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities. None of these are within the scope of this project.

- (b) *Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.*

Lakeview Park has not been subject to successive projects of the same type in the same place over time. The proposed Dog Play Area is the first of its kind in the Grand Lake and Lake Merritt neighborhood. Further, its location within existing open space in the

Park area is not expected to create a significant additional demand on environmental resources, parking or traffic in the area. No substantial increase in traffic or parking would be expected. Users are expected predominantly to come from within the neighborhood and will be walking to the park. The Lakeview Library, located at Lakeview Park, has a parking lot with approximately 25 spaces and there is also on-street parking on the perimeter streets. Additionally, the applicant has provided data (see May 2, 2012 Planning Staff Report) showing that many of the dog owners who will be using the Dog Play Area live within walking distance of the park. Therefore, parking and traffic impacts are not expected. Standard and Project-Specific Conditions of Approval address issues such as nuisances, maintenance, a 12-month compliance review, in order to prevent or address any potential impacts.

- (c) *Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

The project site is an existing City of Oakland Neighborhood Park within an urban neighborhood in downtown Oakland. It is already developed with a library, tot lot, public restroom building and open field area. Concerns have been raised regarding potential odor and health-related impacts if the site is not regularly maintained, including removal of dog waste. Planning Staff is satisfied that with Standard Conditions of Approval, Project-Specific Conditions requiring among other things a 12-month review of the project, and the proposed MOU which includes agreements on regular maintenance, and monitoring by the City of Oakland, these issues will not present a significant hazard to the environment.

- (d) *Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.*

No scenic resources are located within the project site. The existing Lakeview Library building within the project site, is designated as LM-1 (in the Lake Merritt Historic District) will not be damaged or otherwise adversely affected as a result of the dog play area enclosed by a 4' iron fence. While the site is adjacent to 1-580, a designated scenic highway, the construction of the dog play area will not impede any views from this highway or alter the nature of the park in such a way as to detract from the visual quality of the park from the scenic highway.

- (e) *Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.*

The project site is not listed on the Department of Toxic Substances Controls Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (Cortese List, compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code).¹

- (f) *Historical Resource. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.*

The existing Lakeview Library building within the site is designated as LM-1 (in the Lake Merritt Historic District). No substantial adverse change to this resource will result from the dog play area within the same park. The project site is not located within a Historic District, or an Area of Primary or Secondary Importance for historic resources. If archaeological resources are identified within the project site during the demolition or construction period, they would be protected in accordance with current City protocol. Therefore, the proposed project would not cause an adverse change in the significance of a historic resource.

Based on the above evidence, and an analysis of potential environmental impacts of the proposed project (see Section III), there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed project would result in significant environmental impacts. Likewise, the absence of significant environmental impacts that could result from the proposed project would make unnecessary the adoption of mitigation measures. Because the proposed project meets the criteria for categorically exempt existing public facilities listed in CEQA Guidelines section 15301, it is Staff's recommendation that a notice of exemption for the proposed project be prepared and filed with the County Clerk.

Section 15183 - Projects Consistent with a Community Plan, General Plan, or Zoning:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15183 states that projects which are consistent with the development density established by existing zoning, community plan, or general plan policies for which an EIR was certified shall not require additional environmental review, except as might be necessary to examine whether there are project-specific significant effects which are peculiar to the project or its site.

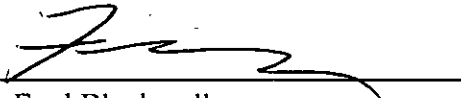
As a separate and independent basis from the other CEQA findings, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21083.3 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15183, the Zoning Manager finds and determines that: (a) the project is consistent with the Land Use and Transportation

Element (LUTE), for which an EIR was certified in March 1998; (b) feasible mitigation measures identified in the LUTE EIR were adopted and have been, or will be, undertaken; (c) the EIR evaluated impacts peculiar to the project and/or project site, as well as off-site and cumulative impacts; (d) uniformly applied development policies and/or standards (Standard Conditions of Approval) have previously been adopted and found, that when applied to future projects, to substantially mitigate impacts. To the extent that no such findings were previously made, the Zoning Manager hereby finds and determines that the Standard Conditions of Approval imposed on the Project substantially mitigate environmental impacts; and (e) substantial new information does not exist to show that the Standard Conditions of Approval will not substantially mitigate the project and cumulative impacts.

Should the Council deny the Appeal and thereby uphold the Planning Commission's denial, CEQA exemption 15270 (Projects which are Disapproved) would apply.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Ann Clevenger, Planner III, at (510) 238-6980.

Respectfully submitted,



Fred Blackwell
Assistant City Administrator

Reviewed by:
Scott Miller, Interim Director
Department of Planning and Building

Robert Merkamp, Acting Zoning Manager

Prepared by:
Ann Clevenger, Planner III
Zoning Division

Attachment A – *Planning Commission Staff Report, dated May 2, 2012*

Attachment B – *Appeal, dated May 14, 2012*

Attachment C – *Public Comment Letters*

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ATTACHMENT A

**Planning Commission Staff Report
May 2, 2012**

Location:	Lakeview Park, northeast corner at MacArthur Blvd. and Lake Shore Ave. (APN: 011 -0836-041-04) (see map on reverse)
Proposal:	To establish an off-leash Dog Play Area.
Applicant:	City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation
Contact Person/	Mark Hail
Phone Number:	(510) 238-3817
Case File Number:	CUII-208
Planning Permits Required:	A Conditional Use Permit is required to establish a dog play area at an existing neighborhood park.
General Plan:	Urban Open Space
Zoning:	OS (NP) - Open Space (Neighborhood Park)
Environmental Determination:	Exempt, Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines: Existing Public Facilities; Section 15332 of the State CEQA Guidelines: Infill Development Projects; Section 15183 of the State CEQA Guidelines: Projects consistent with a Community Plan, General Plan or Zoning
Historic Status:	Not a Potential Designated Historic Property (Note: The Lakeview Library building is in the LMI:Lake Merritt Historic District; Lakeview Park is not)
Service Delivery District:	3
City Council District:	3
Date Filed:	November 9, 2011 (complete on February 23, 2012)
Action to be Taken:	Decision on Application
Finality of Decision:	<i>Appealable to City Council within 10 days of decision</i>
For Further Information:	Contact case planner Ann Clevenger, Planner III at (510) 238-6980 or aclevenger@oaklandnet.com

SUMMARY

The Applicant, the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR), requests approval of a Conditional Use Permit to establish a Dog Play Area at the northeast corner of Lakeview Park, an existing public park located at MacArthur Blvd. and Lakeshore Ave., near Lake Merritt (see Plans, including Photographs, Attachment "C"). The project is sponsored by the Oakland Dog Owners' Group (ODOG) and the OPR. The Dog Play Area would provide a fenced area for dog owners to exercise their dogs off-leash, would be approximately 20,778 s.f in area (including a 17,286 s.f section for large dogs and a 3,492 s.f. section for small dogs), and would be subject to park rules regarding access hours (6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.), and other rules as identified in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and ODOG (Attachment "D"). Pursuant to Planning Code Section 17.134.040(B)(1), the Planning Director has referred this application to the City Planning Commission for a decision due to the prominence of its location as well as the intense public comment (Attachment "J").

Staff recommends approval of the Conditional Use Permit, subject to the Findings and Conditions of Approval (Attachments "A" and "B", respectively). Staff has included Alternate Findings for Denial should the Planning Commission decide to deny the project (Attachment "I").

CITY OF OAKLAND PLANNING COMMISSION



0 125 250 500 750 1,000 Feet



Case File: CU11-208
Applicant: City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation
Address: Lakeview Park, northeast corner at
MacArthur Blvd and Lake Shore Ave
Zone: OS (NP)

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The project site is at Lakeview Park (also sometimes referred to as "Astro Park" and "Eastshore Park"), which is an existing City of Oakland Neighborhood Park consisting of a total area of 158,994 s.f. (3.66 acres). The park is located east of Lake Merritt, and bounded by MacArthur Blvd., Lake Shore Ave., Grand Ave. and El Embarcadero. The Park contains the Lakeview Public Library, and is bisected by the library parking lot which has access to Grand Avenue and Lakeshore Drive. The Park is surrounded by residential and retail uses in the Grand Lake Neighborhood and Lake Merritt area. Interstate 580 is located directly across MacArthur Blvd., approximately 100 feet to the east of the park.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

General

The proposed Dog Play Area would be located at the corner of MacArthur Blvd. and Lake Shore Ave. at Lakeview Park, a City of Oakland Neighborhood Park. It would provide a fenced off-leash Dog Play Area for dog owners to exercise their dogs. The project is sponsored by the Oakland Dog Owners' Group (ODOG) in conjunction with the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation. The Dog Play Area would be subject to Lakeview Park rules regarding hours of use, and rules signs would be posted for dog owners. Maintenance responsibilities are addressed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and ODOG.

Physical Description

The project would consist of approximately 20,778 s.f. in total area (approximately .5 acres), including a 17,286 s.f. section for large dogs and a 3,492 s.f. section for small dogs. The Dog Play Area would be enclosed by a 4-foot tall fence of ornamental iron at the perimeter, and screened or partially screened by flowering vines. The perimeter fence would be located a minimum of 10 feet from the edge of the sidewalk along MacArthur Blvd., 25 feet from the edge of the sidewalk at Lakeshore Ave., and 25 feet from the closest edge of the Astro Park Children's Play Area. There would be an internal fence subdividing the large dog and small dog areas. The Dog Play Area would feature a double-gated safety entrance/exit, ADA accessibility, water, signage, seating, repurposed wood chip ground cover, perimeter landscaping and sprinklers, and multiple dispensers for waste clean up bags, and an underground waste management system.

History

Since 1998, various proposals have been made to develop a dog park which was identified as an unmet community need. Originally the area known as Splash Pad, east of the 580 Freeway, was under consideration but this location was rejected based on neighborhood concerns. The Lake Merritt Master Plan was approved by the City Council in 2002, which identifies a special area for dogs at the currently proposed site along MacArthur Blvd. The same year, the Adams Point Neighborhood Plan was approved that includes a dog park at the corner of Lakeshore Ave. and MacArthur Blvd. In 2006, in accordance with Planning Code requirements, the Lakeview site was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC), which voted to recommend approval of the Dog Play Area with a one-year probationary period (Attachment "E"). No Conditional Use Permit application was filed, however, after the PRAC meeting. In 2009 and 2010, the project was presented at the Adams Point Action Council and Grand Lake Neighborhood Group. In December of 2010, the PRAC unanimously voted to recommend approval of the project (Attachment "F"), and preparations were begun to assemble application materials for submission to the Planning Department. Due to new opposition to the proposed location, the project was taken back to PRAC in July of 2011, where presentations for an alternative location were made by a group who opposed the Lakeview Park site, and the Committee ended in a split vote (3-3) (Attachment "G"). The Applicant submitted their Planning application on November 9, 2011 (it was complete on February 23, 2012).

GENERAL PLAN ANALYSIS

General Plan Land Use & Transportation Element (LUTE)

The project site is located in the "Urban Open Space" Land Use area per the General Plan's Land Use & Transportation Element (LUTE). The Intent of the classification is: *"to identify, enhance and maintain land for parks and open space. Its purpose is to maintain an urban park, schoolyard and garden system which provides open space for outdoor recreation, psychological and physical well-being, and relief from the urban environment."* The desired character and uses for this Land Use area include, *"urban parks, schoolyards, cemeteries, and other active outdoor recreation areas."*

The General Plan LUTE further identifies the site as located in the Downtown area, which is a Showcase District, (see City Structure Diagram, page 6). Oakland has five Showcase Districts: Downtown, the Mixed Use Waterfront, the Coliseum Area, and the Airport/Gateway. These form a crescent framing the bay, and are the districts where activities will *"link Oakland with the region, the nation and the Pacific Rim. Far reaching economic activities will be complements by the cultural, recreational and commercial choices that make a world-class city."* The General Plan recognizes the Downtown area as both an employment area and a collection of neighborhoods. Its goals include *"promoting the downtown areas as a dynamic economic center and a premier location for urban residential living, building upon existing neighborhoods and promoting and expanding a pedestrian-friendly, diverse and exciting range of housing, social, cultural, and arts opportunities."*

The General Plan LUTE Strategy Objective for this area is one of 'Maintain and Enhance' (see Strategy Diagram, page 122). This designation is used in areas *"where the predominant established uses and densities will continue – changes in use and density will be small. Implementation actions will emphasize enhancement and improvement, and where needed, strategies to discourage or prohibit intensification."*

Open Space Conservation and Recreation Plan (OSCAR)

The Open Space Conservation and Recreation Plan (OSCAR), was adopted by the City Council in 1996 as an element of the Oakland General Plan. The Introduction to Chapter 4, Recreation, states that this chapter *"... is comprehensive in scope but not intended to be a 'Park Master Plan.' The City still needs to prepare a plan which specifically addresses capital improvements, funding sources, park administration and program changes. The OSCAR Element sets a policy framework for such a plan but stops short of making detailed recommendations for service delivery and capital improvements."*

Table 16, page 4-43 of OSCAR lists 20 items that are identified as "Major Unmet Capital Needs in Oakland Parks (not necessarily in priority order). Item #12 on the list states: *"Dog park, providing exercise/play areas and possibly providing obedience training, veterinary and vaccination services, and a kennel (citywide)."*

OSCAR classifies Lakeview Park as a Neighborhood Park. It states that these are parks generally ranging from 2-10 acres in size and located in a residential area within walking distance of its primary uses, and should contain: landscaped picnic areas and lawn; childrens' play areas/tot lots; hard court area for basketball; multi-purpose turf area (ballfield); restrooms (where the park supports major athletic events); picnic tables and sitting areas.

Lake Merritt Park Master Plan

The Lake Merritt Park Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in 2002 as a Master Plan document providing a comprehensive set of recommendations for future development and activity around Lake Merritt.

The Plan includes the following references to a dog park along MacArthur Blvd., at the currently proposed site:

The Plan's Park Programming Map (Figure 3.2) includes a reference to a "Potential Off-Leash Dog Area" within Lakeview Park, in approximately the same location as the proposed Dog Play Area. Reference is again made to a special area for dogs along MacArthur Boulevard; off-leash status pursuant to City of Oakland regulations with low fencing required in off-leash area.

Table V.1 of the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan lists Project Descriptions for numerous recommended projects for which corresponding locations are illustrated on Figure V.1. Among them include "LKSH 9", with a title of Eastshore Park Renovation and describes "*Renovation of park area including parking lot; library sitework; open lawn areas; dog area enclosure; sports facilities; lighting; planting; irrigation.*"

Staff finds that the project, to establish a Dog Play Area at an existing public park which fills an identified and unmet need to the community, conforms to the goals and objectives of the General Plan and specific recommendations contained in Lake Merritt Park Master Plan.

ZONING ANALYSIS

The project site is located within the Open Space/Neighborhood Park (OS/NP) Zone. The intent of the OS/NP Zone is, "*to create, preserve, and enhance land for permanent open space to meet the active and passive recreational needs of Oakland residents and to promote park uses which are compatible with surrounding land uses and the city's natural environment*"

Lakeview Park is considered a "Recreational Assembly Civic Activity" (Planning Code Section 17.10.170, Use Classifications), and the table found in Planning Code Section 17.11.060 (OS Open Space Zoning Regulations) lists a fenced Dog Play Area as a "Community Assembly Civic Activity", and further indicates that it requires a Minor Conditional Use Permit (Planning Code Section 17.134.050). Further, applications for conditional use permits in the OS zone shall be subject to the special use permit review procedure for the OS zone established in Chapter 17.135.

The purpose of the Conditional Use Permit is to evaluate uses with special site or design requirements, operating characteristics, or potential adverse effects on surroundings, through review and, where necessary, impose special conditions of approval. Pursuant to Planning Code Section 17.134.040(B)(1), the Planning Director has referred this application to the City Planning Commission for a decision due to the prominence of the location as well as the intense public comment on the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines categorically exempts specific types of projects from environmental review.

Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines categorically exempts projects involving *operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.*"

As a separate and independent basis, the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15332 of the State CEQA Guidelines, which categorically exempts In-Fill Development Projects, may also apply.

The proposal is to establish a 20,778 s.f Dog Play Area at Lakeview Park, which is an existing City of Oakland public park consisting of a total area of 158,994 s.f, and which is located within the Oakland city limits and is substantially surrounded by urban uses. The construction of the dog park will be relatively minor, consisting of a 4' tall metal perimeter fence, landscaping and a permeable surface of wood chips. Such minor construction should pose no environmental impacts under normal circumstances. The site has no value as habitat for any category of protected species, and would not affect air quality or water quality. The Dog Play Area would operate under an MOU between the City Parks and Recreation and the Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG) to ensure that installation of landscaping and maintenance is carried out as appropriate to ensure no adverse impacts will result on the neighborhood or the City of Oakland. The project is not expected to generate any substantial vehicular traffic; therefore, traffic impacts are not expected to occur.

As a separate and independent basis, the project is exempt under Section 15183 of the State CEQA Guidelines (projects that are *consistent with a community plan, general plan or zoning.*)

Staff finds that the project is therefore exempt from Environmental Review.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Dogs in Parks:

The Oakland Municipal Code, 6.04.080 prohibits dogs in public parks, leashed or unleashed, with very few exceptions. Subsection (C) states that, "Dogs are permitted to be off-leash when authorized in a writing or resolution by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and then as amended therein." The permitted off-leash areas currently include: Hardy Park, Mosswood Park, Martin Luther King Jr. (a.k.a. Grove/Shafter) Park, Joaquin Miller, and Jefferson Park dog play areas. Currently, the nearest Oakland dog park is in Mosswood Park, about two miles away from the proposed site. Should the Planning Commission approve the project, the project would still need specific approval from PRAC and the City Council would still need to amend the municipal code to incorporate Lakeview Park into the list of dog-permitted parks prior to the activity beginning operation (see Condition #17).

In accordance with City of Oakland requirements, the project was been presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) for public review and recommendations. The PRAC voted unanimously to approve the design for the proposal in December of 2010. In July of 2011, PRAC considered a recommendation on the CUP for the proposal. At that meeting, a group that had organized in opposition to the project made a presentation, and the PRAC ended in a split vote (3-3). Although the motion did not succeed, PRAC's action fulfilled its advisory obligation to make a recommendation such that the CUP application could proceed to the Planning Commission.

Maintenance/Landscaping

Maintenance of the park and the plantings would be shared by the City and the Lakeview Park Dog Owners Group, under an MOU using the guidelines in place at other Oakland dog runs (Attachment "D").

Plantings would be selected by OPR for appearance and easy long-term maintenance by volunteers. Vines and flowers would be maintained as needed by the Paw and Prune Club at Lakeview Dog Park. Irrigation would be installed and maintained by the City. The fence would be maintained as needed, and the wood chip surface, donated by The Professional Tree Care Company, would be maintained approximately 3 times per year. Dog

owners would do all of the day-to-day maintenance; Public Works will remove waste as needed using the Magic Can Underground Waste Management System (per the Applicant, this system keeps waste cool and odor free and requires less frequent pick up than traditional waste removal systems; only needs staff attention about once a month). Per the Applicant, dog owners have already formed their own maintenance group and have agreed to the terms of the MOU.

Safety/Security

Issues of Safety and Security have been raised by those concerned with the Dog Play Area's presence, particularly given its proximity to the Astro Park, a children's play area. The Applicant has proposed to address this as follows: The Dog Play Area would be subject to the existing park rules regarding access hours. Dogs must be on leash to approach the dog run and will not need to get in the way of activities on the field or in the Astro Park "tot lot" area. Children would be protected from the dogs and dog run by a four foot fence around the dog area, by 35 foot distance from the play equipment (25 feet from the playground buffer zone) and by the requirement that dogs stay leashed until they are within the dog enclosure.

Funding

Per the Applicant, funding for the project is by the City (approximately 40%) in partnership with the dog owners (approximately 60%) with a total budget of about \$70,000. The Applicant notes that City funds have been earmarked for this project since before 2006 by Public Works and the City Council office. In addition, dog owners have raised \$10,000 in private and corporate funding and will bring in additional funds for the initial construction (Stage 1) of the Dog Play Area for the fence, planting (except perimeter trees) and irrigation, and all safety and access features such as ADA access, Magic Can Waste System, truck access, and basic rules signage. Stage two funding will be developed from actual users of the Dog Play Area and will fund perimeter trees, furniture, decorative entrance signage, decorative metal dog silhouettes on the fence and amenities in the dog run.

Other Dog Play Areas located in Oakland include:

- Hardy Park (14,942 s.f.)
- Jefferson Park (6,636 s.f.)
- Joaquin Miller (26,704 s.f.)
- Martin Luther King, Jr., a.k.a., Grove-Shafter (23,565 s.f.)
- Mosswood (14,073 s.f.)

The designs for the existing dog areas include: in-ground trash receptacles, spigots for animal drinking, and separate areas for large and small dogs. The Applicant, the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation, states that other than complaints regarding the proximity of dogs to active tennis play at Mosswood Park, dog play areas in Oakland have not resulted in many direct complaints.

As of this writing, the Applicant has taken this item to PRAC on two occasions: in December, 2010 when PRAC voted unanimously to recommend approval of the project, and in July, 2011, when an organized group opposing the project attended and there was a split vote.

Since the PRAC meetings, up to and including the issuance of Public Notices for this Conditional Use Permit application, hundreds of comments, and some petitions, have been submitted to the Planning Department and other City offices expressing both support and opposition. (Attachment "J").

While the majority of the community members do not question the merits of a dog play area project in concept, a number of issues have been raised regarding the proposed location, among other concerns. Staff has received comments on both sides. The major issues raised (in bold), followed by Staff's responses, are:

(a) Loss of multi-purpose field area

Concerns were raised asserting that the field area is used frequently, e.g., for pick-up soccer games, etc., and this area should be reserved for use by people rather than dogs. Supporters state that the field is not frequently used, and since dogs are not currently permitted in the Lake Merritt area on or off-leash, (which is the case in almost all Oakland parks not mentioned above) there is an unmet need for a dog play area here. The City has to consider a diverse range of end users when considering what uses are allowed in a City park, hence the CUP process.

(b) Parking / traffic-related impacts

Concerns were raised that more people would be driving their dogs to the park and taking up more of the parking areas. Supporters of the project state that there should not be parking or traffic impacts since more people will be walking their dogs to the park from within the neighborhood, rather than driving to parks in other cities.

(c) Noise (barking), odors and health-related impacts

Concerns were raised about noise, odors and health issues resulting from dog feces and urine in a park with children and adults nearby, and that there are no assurances that individual dog owners will pick up after their dogs. Supporters of the project point out that noise would be managed by posted rules, and odors would not be an issue because dog owners would pick up after their dogs; multiple dispensers for waste clean-up bags will be installed, and an underground waste management system would be used and serviced on a regular basis.

(d) Ongoing maintenance / funding

Concerns were raised that since a good portion of the project relies on volunteers and donations, there are no guarantees that funding will be available to ensure its ongoing maintenance. Supporters point out that much of the funding has already been raised, and the MOU/Maintenance Plan developed between OPR and ODOG ensures the project will be maintained on an ongoing basis.

(e) Safety (e.g., dogs could get loose and harm children nearby)

Concerns were raised that dogs could get loose and scare or injure children or other park users. Proponents do not believe this to be the case; rather, they argue the Dog Play Area would feature a double-gated safety entrance/exit, and that the Dog Play Area would actually be a benefit for children in that it would give them an opportunity to socialize with dogs in a safe setting. Dogs would be on-leash as they go to and from the Play Area so that at no time would other park users be forced to encounter dogs off-leash.

(f) Aesthetics of the fence and other improvements, replacing grass with wood chips

Concerns regarding the physical appearance of the Dog Play Area; that it would be unattractive, and even possibly an eyesore, and that green lawn areas should not be removed in favor of wood chips.

Plans filed for the Dog Play Area should that it would be enclosed by a 4-foot tall fence of ornamental iron at the perimeter, and screened or partially screened by flowering vines. The perimeter fence would be set back a minimum of 10 feet from the edge of the sidewalk along MacArthur Blvd., 25 feet from the edge of the sidewalk at Lakeshore Ave., and 25 feet from the closest edge of the Astro Park Children's Play Area. Repurposed wood chip ground cover would be used and replaced periodically. Landscaping including vines at the perimeter fence and sprinklers would be installed, and trees would be added as part of the second phase of the project once funds are available.

Summary Comments by Staff:

Parking and traffic impacts should not be substantial since more people are likely to be walking their dogs to the park from within the neighborhood, rather than driving to parks farther away in Oakland or in other cities.

The Applicant has provided information showing that much of the funding has already been raised, and the MOU/Maintenance Plan developed between OPR and ODOG ensures the project will be maintained on an ongoing basis.

Staff believes that, on balance, this is an appropriate use in this location. It is accessible to many of the denser urban neighborhoods near Lake Merritt. It is of reasonable size while still preserving the majority of the park for existing uses. The proposed Dog Play Area would in fact take up approximately 23% of the 3.66 acres park area leaving the remaining 77% for the Astro Park tot lot and open spaces available for other uses. While Lakeview Park is in the small end of the size range for Neighborhood Parks (2-10 acres, per the definition in OSCAR), Lakeview Park is adjacent to the much larger Lakeside Park surrounding Lake Merritt, and the Dog Play Area takes up less than 1% of the green space in the overall Lake Merritt area and less than 25% of Lakeview Park.

The quality of design and materials is demonstrated through a 4-foot tall ornamental iron perimeter fence, planted with flowering vines (with irrigation system) along its outside that would grow up and into the fence creating a visually pleasing appearance, quality signage and gates, and a commitment to replace the wood chip groundcover within the Dog Play Area periodically.

There are no outstanding issues associated with the request. In conclusion, staff recommends approval of the request for a Conditional Use Permit to establish a Dog Play Area at Lakeview Park.

The Planning Commission may, as an alternative, find the project should be denied. Findings for denial are included herein (see Attachment "F").

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Affirm staff's environmental determination.
2. Approve the Conditional Use Permit subject to the attached findings and conditions in Attachments "A" and "B".


ALTERNATIVE PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION (should the *Planning Commission* determine that the proposal is not appropriate at this location):

1. Find that the project is exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines section 15270, Projects Which are Disapproved.
2. Deny the Conditional Use Permit, subject to the attached findings in Attachment "I".


Prepared by:


ANN CLEVINGER, Planner III

Approved by:


ROBERT MERKAMP, Acting Zoning Manager

Approved for forwarding to the
City Planning Commission:


SCOTT MILLER, Interim Planning & Zoning Director

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Findings for Approval
- B. Conditions of Approval
- C. Plans, including Photographs
- D. Memorandum of Understanding between OPR and ODOG
- E. PRAC Meeting Report/Minutes (July, 2006)
- F. PRAC Meeting Report/Minutes (December, 2010)
- G. PRAC Meeting Report/Minutes (July, 2011)
- H. Project Summary / History & Timeline of Public Processes
- I. Alternative Findings (Findings for Denial)
- J. Comment Letters and Petitions

Attachment A: Findings for Approval

This proposal meets the required findings under General Use Permit Criteria (OMC Sec. 17.134.050) as follows:

SECTION 17.134.050 – GENERAL USE PERMIT CRITERIA:

- A. That the location, size, design, and operating characteristics of the proposed development will be compatible with and will not adversely affect the livability or appropriate development of abutting properties and the surrounding neighborhood, with consideration to be given to harmony in scale, bulk, coverage, and density; to the availability of civic facilities and utilities; to harmful effect, if any, upon desirable neighborhood character; to the generation of traffic and the capacity of surrounding streets; and to any other relevant impact of the development.

The Dog Play Area would be located in Lakeview Park, a 3.66 acre park bounded by Grand Avenue, MacArthur Blvd, Lakeshore Avenue and El Embarcadero. Currently there is a library (Lakeview Library), a children's play area (Astro Park), and a multi-purpose field. The Dog Play Area would be located at the corner of the field area at MacArthur Blvd. and Lakeshore Ave.

Lakeview Park is adjacent to Lakeside Park (a much larger region-serving park), which surrounds Lake Merritt (approx. 75 acres). The two parks together provide children's playgrounds (including Astro Park in Lakeview Park near the proposed dog play area) and more than 75 acres of green space around the Lake available for multiple types of uses, including picnicking, informal sports games, exercise classes, jogging, boating, etc.

At 20,778 s.f, the dog run would take up about 23% of Lakeview Park; the Astro Park children's playground takes up about 11% of the field, and the remaining 66% is available for soccer, picnics, etc. Again, when viewed together, the Dog Play Area takes up less than 1% of the green space in the overall Lake Merritt Area and less than 25% of Lakeview Park.

Lakeview Dog Play Area is designed with attention to aesthetic quality (using a 4' high ornamental iron fence with flowering vines to be planted along its perimeter), a maintenance component (MOU between the City and the Oakland Dog Owners Group), and would be the only dog play area located in Central Oakland.

Since dogs are banned from all City parks, including Lake Merritt, except for a few locations that received special approval (the nearest Oakland dog park to this neighborhood is in Mosswood Park, about two miles away), the area meets most outdoor recreational needs of its residents with the exception of a dog play area. The proposed dog run improves the livability of the Grand Lake and Lake Merritt community by providing a safe and legal gathering place for people of all ages and backgrounds to meet, share their interest in dogs and get to know their neighbors.

This public amenity leaves space for all the current activities at the park including the Lakeview Library, the Astro Park tot lot and the exercise bars on Grand Avenue which are used year round, as well as the field which is used for occasional pick-up soccer, kids' softball, volleyball and picnics.

From a safety standpoint, the Dog Play Area would provide a safe place in the park for people to watch their dogs play off-leash. Dogs would be on-leash as they go to and from the Play Area so that at no time would other park users be forced to encounter dogs off-leash.

Families at the Astro Park children's playground will be more than 25 feet away from the dog run fence and parents will have the choice of whether or not to let their children interact with the dogs. The area of the dog

Findings for Approval

run closest to the tot lot is reserved for small dogs. The Applicant asserts that more than a decade of experience at Hardy Park, with the fenced dog run adjacent to the children's playground, demonstrates that both uses function well in close proximity and may even help some children become less fearful of dogs.

Low Visual Impact - The dog play area is designed to have minimum visual impact on the park and the neighborhood and the fence would be setback a minimum of 10 feet from the sidewalk and bus stops along MacArthur Blvd., 25' minimum from the sidewalk and bus stop along Lakeshore Ave., and 25 feet from Astro Park.

B. That the location, design, and site planning of the proposed development will provide a convenient and functional living, working, shopping, or civic environment, and will be as attractive as the nature of the use and its location and setting warrant.

This location is convenient to serve the densely-populated downtown neighborhoods of the Grand Lake and Lake Merritt areas. It is reasonable to expect that a growing population of residents in the area's homes, apartments and condominiums will include more dog owners and further increase the demand for such community amenities as a dog play area.

The establishment of this Dog Play Area, as proposed, fills a significant unmet need. Currently dogs are banned from all parks in Oakland except by vote of City Council. With more than 1000 acres of park space and more than 100 City parks, Oakland has less than five acres of off-leash space (fenced dog runs from 1/3 acre to about one acre in the following City parks: Hardy Park, Mosswood Park, Jefferson Park, Joaquin Miller Park, Grove Shafter Park). None of these are convenient to residents of the Grand Lake and Lake Merritt neighborhoods. A Dog Play Area would add another amenity that would keep neighborhood residents "local", as well as attracting other people to the area's parks, shops and restaurants.

As described in the findings under "A" above, the design would be attractive, using a 4' high ornamental iron fence with flowering vines to be planted along its perimeter. No structures will be erected other than this fence. The 4' fence height would allow for minimal disruption of the visual openness of the park area, while containing the dogs adequately. The flowering vines would be selected in consultation with the Office of Parks and Recreation, based on appropriateness and ease of maintenance.

C. That the proposed development will enhance the successful operation of the surrounding area in its basic community functions, or will provide an essential service to the community or region.

A Dog Play Area would add another amenity that would keep neighborhood residents "local", as well as attracting other people to the area's parks, shops and restaurants. Many people move to Lake Merritt for a "greener" lifestyle and want to be able to walk to their community amenities. This specific location near Lake Merritt is planned so that its accessibility, design and site planning will best serve the needs of the greatest array of potential users. The site was selected after years of study and community input.

The Dog Play Area would provide an essential service to the neighborhood because dogs are currently prohibited, even on-leash, in Lakeview Park, Lakeside Park and most other Oakland parks. The nearest park where people can take their dog is more than a mile away. Dog owning families can't legally bring their dogs with them while their children play in Astro Park or other parts of Lakeview or Lakeside Park. Elderly people who have had to limit or eliminate their driving will be able to exercise their dogs near home. Walking to the Dog Play Area would become a daily ritual for many people which gives them exercise, a sense of community

and brings foot traffic to the shopping areas. Dog owners now must drive to their dogs to parks in Piedmont, Alameda and Berkeley.

D. That the proposal conforms to all applicable design review criteria set forth in the Design Review Procedure at Section 17.136.050.

Exterior changes related to the Dog Play Area include: Perimeter and interior fences and gates; informational and decorative signage; landscaping and irrigation, water and waste facilities. Staff believes that the fence design will be reasonably attractive, landscaped to provide a visual buffer with the rest of the park. See findings in Design Review Findings section.

E. That the proposal conforms in all significant respects with the Oakland Comprehensive Plan and with any other applicable plan or development control map which has been adopted by the City Council.

Oakland General Plan

The Oakland General Plan Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE) was updated in 1998 and designates this site as "Urban Open Space". The dog run maintains open space and does not create any new enclosed structures at the site.

Open Space Conservation and Recreation Plan (OSCAR)

The Open Space Conservation and Recreation Plan (OSCAR), was adopted in 1996 as an element of the Oakland General Plan. The Introduction to Chapter 4, Recreation, states that this chapter "...is comprehensive in scope but not intended to be a 'Park Master Plan.' The City still needs to prepare a plan which specifically addresses capital improvements, funding sources, park administration and program changes. The OSCAR Element sets a policy framework for such a plan but stops short of making detailed recommendations for service delivery and capital improvements."

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Lake Merritt Park Master Plan

The Lake Merritt Park Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in 2002 as a Master Plan document providing a comprehensive set of recommendations for future development and activity around Lake Merritt.

The Plan includes the following references to a dog park along MacArthur Blvd., at the currently proposed site:

The Plan's Park Programming Map (Figure 3.2) includes a reference to a "Potential Off-Leash Dog Area" within Lakeview Park, in approximately the same location as the proposed Dog Play Area. Reference is again

Findings for Approval

made to a special area for dogs along MacArthur Boulevard; off-leash status pursuant to City of Oakland regulations with low fencing required in off-leash area.

Table V.1 of the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan lists Project Descriptions for numerous recommended projects for which corresponding locations are illustrated on Figure V.1. Among them include "LKSH 9", with a title of Eastshore Park Renovation and describes "Renovation of park area including parking lot; library sitework; open lawn areas; dog area enclosure; sports facilities; lighting; planting; irrigation."

An off-leash dog area at Lakeview Park was recommended in the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan and the Adams Point Neighborhood Plan, both approved and adopted by City Council in 2002.

Staff finds that this proposal, as designed and at this location conforms with the Oakland General Plan, Open Space Element, Zoning regulations, District Plans and Area Master Plans.

This proposal meets the required findings under Regular Design Review Criteria (Oakland Planning Code Section 17.136.050) for Non-Residential Facilities as follows:

SECTION 17.136.050 – REGULAR DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA:

B. For Nonresidential Facilities and Signs.

1. That the proposal will help achieve or maintain a group of facilities which are well related to one another and which, when taken together, will result in a well-composed design, with consideration given to site, landscape, bulk, height, arrangement, texture, materials, colors, and appurtenances; the relation of these factors to other facilities in the vicinity; and the relation of the proposal to the total setting as seen from key points in the surrounding area. Only elements of design which have some significant relationship to outside appearance shall be considered, except as otherwise provided in Section 17.136.060.

The addition of a Dog Play Area within the existing Lakeview Park will establish a new civic amenity that is not currently available in Lakeview Park adjacent to Lake Merritt, or Lakeside Park surrounding Lake Merritt. It will be designed in a manner that is well-integrated and visually unobtrusive with the existing amenities (library, children's play area, and open multi-purpose field), with a low (4' tall) black ornamental iron fence planted with flowering vines, and will be setback substantially (10'-25') from the surrounding sidewalks streets and the Astro Park children's play area. The siting, at the corner of MacArthur Blvd. and Lakeshore Ave., allows for a usable open field and creates a safe enclosure for dogs and their owners near a busy intersection.

2. That the proposed design will be of a quality and character which harmonizes with, and serves to protect the value of private and public investments in the area.

The quality of design and materials is demonstrated through a 4-foot tall ornamental iron perimeter fence, planted with flowering vines (with irrigation system) along its outside that would grow up and into the fence creating a visually pleasing appearance, quality signage and gates. The low (4-foot) height of the fence will preserve a sense of openness in the park area. In addition, the fenced area will be setback a minimum of 10' from the sidewalks and bus stops along MacArthur Boulevard, 25 feet along Lakeshore Ave., and 25 feet from Astro Park children's play area so that it will not appear visually crowded. An MOU will be in place to ensure the area is maintained to a high standard, including but not limited to maintaining landscaping and a commitment to replace the wood chip groundcover within the Dog Play Area as needed.

3. That the proposed design conforms in all significant respects with the Oakland General Plan and with any applicable design review guidelines or criteria, district plan, or development control map which have been adopted by the Planning Commission or City Council.

See Staff's findings under General Use Permit Criteria, finding "E" above.

Attachment B: Conditions of Approval

1. Approved Use

Ongoing

a) The project shall be constructed and operated in accordance with the authorized use as described in the application materials, staff report, and the plans dated December 12, 2011 and submitted on February 2, 2012, and as amended by the following conditions. Any additional uses or facilities other than those approved with this permit, as described in the project description and the approved plans, will require a separate application and approval. Any deviation from the approved drawings, Conditions of Approval or use shall required prior written approval from the Director of City Planning or designee.

b) This action by the City Planning Commission ("this Approval") includes the approvals set forth below. This Approval includes:

A Conditional Use Permit to establish a Dog Play Area within (a fenced area where dog owners can exercise their dogs off-leash), consisting of a total of 20,778 s.f. and located within the existing Lakeview Park, a City of Oakland neighborhood park, and operating under park rules regarding hours and other regulations in the OS (NP) "Open Space (Neighborhood Park) Zone.

2. Effective Date, Expiration, Extensions and Extinguishment

Ongoing

Unless a different termination date is prescribed, this Approval shall expire two calendar years from the approval date, unless within such period all necessary permits for construction or alteration have been issued, or the authorized activities have commenced in the case of a permit not involving construction or alteration. Upon written request and payment of appropriate fees submitted no later than the expiration date of this permit, the Director of City Planning or designee may grant a one-year extension of this date, with additional extensions subject to approval by the approving body. Expiration of any necessary building permit for this project may invalidate this Approval if the said extension period has also expired.

3. Scope of This Approval; Major and Minor Changes

Ongoing

The project is approved pursuant to the *Planning Code* only. Minor changes to approved plans may be approved administratively by the Director of City Planning or designee. Major changes to the approved plans shall be reviewed by the Director of City Planning or designee to determine whether such changes require submittal and approval of a revision to the approved project by the approving body or a new, completely independent permit.

4. Conformance with other Requirements

Prior to issuance of a demolition, grading, P-job, or other construction related permit

a) The project applicant shall comply with all other applicable federal, state, regional and/or local laws/codes, requirements, regulations, and guidelines, including but not limited to those imposed by the City's Building Services Division, the City's Fire Marshal, and the City's Public Works Agency. Compliance with other applicable requirements may require changes to the approved use and/or plans. These changes shall be processed in accordance with the procedures contained in Condition of Approval 3.

- b) The applicant shall submit approved building plans for project-specific needs related to fire protection to the Fire Services Division for review and approval, including, but not limited to automatic extinguishing systems, water supply improvements and hydrants, fire department access, and vegetation management for preventing fires and soil erosion.

5. Conformance to Approved Plans; Modification of Conditions or Revocation

Ongoing

- a) Site shall be kept in a blight/nuisance-free condition. Any existing blight or nuisance shall be abated within 60-90 days of approval, unless an earlier date is specified elsewhere.
- b) The City of Oakland reserves the right at any time during construction to require certification by a licensed professional that the as-built project conforms to all applicable zoning requirements, including but not limited to approved maximum heights and minimum setbacks. Failure to construct the project in accordance with approved plans may result in remedial reconstruction, permit revocation, permit modification, stop work, permh suspension or other corrective action.
- c) Violation of any term, Conditions or project description relating to the Approvals is unlawful, prohibited, and a violation of the Oakland Municipal Code. The City of Oakland reserves the right to initiate civil and/or criminal enforcement and/or abatement proceedings, or after notice and public hearing, to revoke the Approvals or alter these Conditions if it is found that there is violation of any of the Conditions or the provisions of the Planning Code or Municipal Code, or the project operates as or causes a public nuisance. This provision is not intended to, nor does it, limit in any manner whatsoever the ability of the City to take appropriate enforcement actions. The project applicant shall be responsible for paying fees in accordance with the City's Master Fee Schedule for inspections conducted by the City or a City-designated third-party to investigate alleged violations of the Conditions of Approval.

6. Signed Copy of the Conditions

With submittal of a demolition, grading, and building permit

A copy of the approval letter and Conditions shall be signed by the property owner, notarized, and submitted with each set of permit plans to the appropriate City agency for this project.

7. Indemnification

Ongoing

- a) To the maximum extent permitted by law, the applicant shall defend (with counsel acceptable to the City), indemnify, and hold harmless the City of Oakland, the Oakland City Council, the City of Oakland Redevelopment Agency, the Oakland City Planning Commission and its respective agents, officers, and employees (hereafter collectively called City) from any liability, damages, claim, judgment, loss (direct or indirect)action, causes of action, or proceeding (including legal costs, attorneys' fees, expert witness or consultant fees, City Attorney or staff time, expenses or costs) (collectively called "Action") against the City to attack, set aside, void or annul, (1) an approval by the City relating to a development-related application or subdivision or (2) implementation of an approved development-related project. The City may elect, in its sole discretion, to participate in the defense of said Action and the applicant shall reimburse the City for its reasonable legal costs and attorneys' fees.
- b) Within ten (10) calendar days of the filing of any Action as specified in subsection A above, the applicant shall execute a Letter Agreement with the City, acceptable to the Office of the City Attorney, which memorializes the above obligations. These obligations and the Letter of Agreement shall survive termination, extinguishment or invalidation of the approval. Failure to timely execute the Letter of

Conditions of Approval

Agreement does not relieve the applicant of any of the obligations contained in this condition or other requirements or conditions of approval that may be imposed by the City.

8. Compliance with Conditions of Approval

Ongoing

The project applicant shall be responsible for compliance with the recommendations in any submitted and approved technical report and all the Conditions of Approval set forth herein at its sole cost and expense, and subject to review and approval of the City of Oakland.

9. Severability

Ongoing

Approval of the project would not have been granted but for the applicability and validity of each and every one of the specified conditions, and if one or more of such conditions is found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction this Approval would not have been granted without requiring other valid conditions consistent with achieving the same purpose and intent of such Approval.

10. Job Site Plans

Ongoing throughout demolition, grading, and/or construction

At least one (1) copy of the stamped approved plans, along with the Approval Letter and Conditions of Approval, shall be available for review at the job site at all times.

11. Operational Noise-General

Ongoing.

Noise levels from the activity, property, or any mechanical equipment on site shall comply with the performance standards of Section 17.120 of the Oakland Planning Code and Section 8.18 of the Oakland Municipal Code. If noise levels exceed these standards, the activity causing the noise shall be abated until appropriate noise reduction measures have been installed and compliance verified by the Planning and Zoning Division and Building Services.

12. Lighting Plan

Prior to the issuance of an electrical or building permit

The lighting fixtures shall be adequately shielded to a point below the light bulb and reflector and that prevent unnecessary glare onto adjacent properties. Plans shall be submitted to the Planning and Zoning Division and the Electrical Services Division of the Public Works Agency for review and approval. All lighting shall be architecturally integrated into the site.

13. Signage

Prior to installation of any signage

The design for any exterior signage must be submitted to and approved by the Planning & Zoning Division prior to installation.

PROJECT-SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

14. Nuisances

Ongoing

Crime, litter, or disorderly conduct associated with the establishment may result in a revocation of the Conditional Use Permit or a public hearing to consider revocation.

15. Operational Project Conditions

Ongoing

- a. Landscaping shall be maintained in a healthy and thriving condition at all times to the satisfaction of the Planning Department. Such maintenance shall include regular watering, weeding, pruning and replacement of dead or dying plants.

- h. A permanent location shall be provided for the trash enclosure prior to occupancy of the use and subject to Planning Department approval.

16. Compliance Review

(Within 12 months of commencement of operations)

The project shall be re-evaluated for compliance with conditions of approval and impacts by the Planning Commission within 12 months of commencement of operations. The Applicant shall initiate said Compliance Review by paying the Reconsideration/Revision fee to the City Planning and Zoning offices (currently \$1,803.87).

17. Parks Allowing Dogs

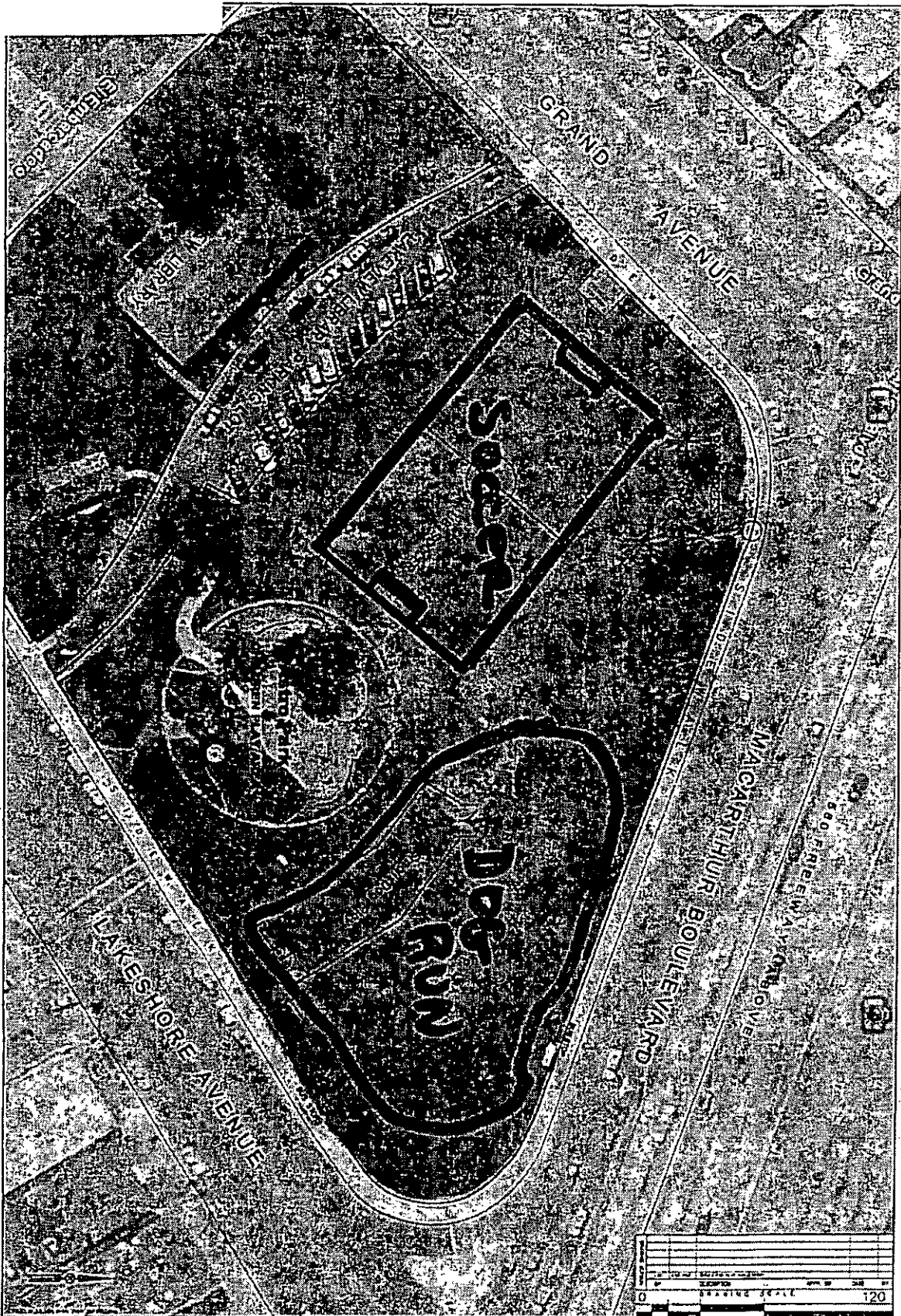
Prior to development of the Lakeview Park Dog Play Area


The Applicant shall obtain authorization to add Lakeview Park to the list of "Permitted Off-Leash Areas" in accordance with Oakland Municipal Code (O.M.C.) 6.04.080(C). Municipal Code 6.04.080(C) requires authorization in a writing or resolution by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for dogs to be allowed off-leash.

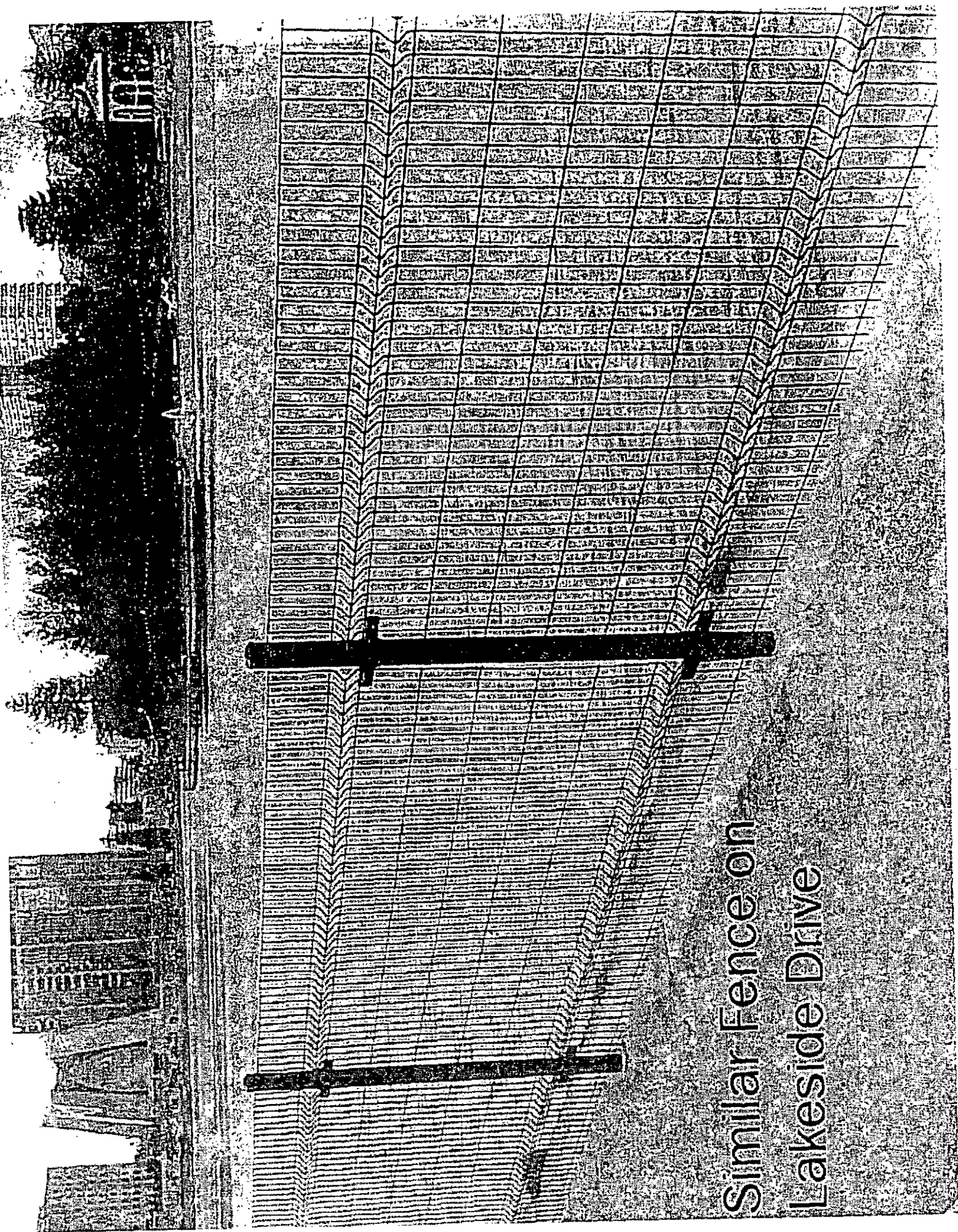
APPROVED BY:

City Planning Commission: _____ (date) _____ (vote)

ATTACHMENT C



<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">13</h1>	PLAY AREA COMPARISON FENCING PROJECT EAST LAKEVIEW PARK - OAKLAND APR 11-2008-41-4	LEAL, CHABONNAT- ARCHITECT+ENGINEERING 1 - 5TH AVENUE #1-9 OAKLAND 94605 (510) 436-3460 FAX (510) 769-9968 CHABONNAT@ESDIGNOW.COM	DRAWN BY: L. CHABONNAT CHECKED BY: ME DESIGNED BY: LNC SHEET NO.: 102-2 DATE:	 CITY OF OAKLAND OFFICE OF PARKS & RECREATION 1000 PINE STREET, SUITE 1000 OAKLAND, CA 94612 (510) 231-2000
	© 2008 LEAL, CHABONNAT- ARCHITECT+ENGINEERING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.			



Similar Fence on
Lakeside Drive

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN THE
CITY OF OAKLAND, OFFICE OF PARKS AND RECREATION,
PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
AND
LAKEVIEW PARK DOG OWNER GROUP (LPDOG)

The City of Oakland, Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) and the Public Works Agency (PWA), hereinafter referred to as City, and Lakeview Park Dog Owner Group, hereinafter referred to as LPDOG, enter into an agreement on the _____ day of _____, 2012.

A. PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

1. This agreement establishes requirements, operating standards and expectations for LPDOG as well as clarifying the roles of the City in the operation of the Lakeview Dog Park.
2. The creation of the dog park is conditional upon approval by City Council to amend Municipal Code Chapter 6.04.080 A., "Dogs at large in parks", to include the Lakeview Dog Park in the exempted list of parks which allow dogs.

B. DESCRIPTION

1. The proposed Lakeview Dog Park is under the jurisdiction of the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation and is maintained by the Public Works Agency.
2. A preliminary plan of the dog park is shown as ATTACHMENT A.
3. The proposed Lakeview Dog Park is to be located adjacent to MacArthur Boulevard between Lakeshore Avenue and Grand Avenue.
4. The dog park will be enclosed by a continuous 4-foot-high fence and gates.
5. The main entrance will have a two-gate system separated by a fenced corridor to ensure the access and egress of dogs will be controlled. The gates will be self-closing.
6. Access to both entrance gates will be from the sidewalks.
7. The dog park fence will be surrounded by plantings.
8. The dog park will be divided into two areas; one area for large dogs and one area for small dogs. The small dog section will be reserved for the exclusive use of dogs that weigh 20 pounds or less.

C. HOURS OF OPERATION

The dog play area will be open during the same hours as Lake Merritt Park.

ATTACHMENT D

D. ADDITIONAL USE

1. LPDOG will have no other use of the property, except for the restricted use as a dog play area and limited to the following:
 - a. Fundraising special events to raise money for dog park area improvements and maintenance, at no charge to the City and at no charge to LPDOG. One event to raise money for Lakeview dog park may be held each quarter in the dog park without going through PRAC or other procedures. Regular special permits will be required for each event using amplified sound for music or serving alcohol.
 - b. Education and training events
 - c. LPDOG may request other days and times for special events as outlined in the OPR Park Use Fees & Guidelines for Special Events and Rules & Procedures for Granting Park Use Permits for Special Events.
2. LPDOG may install, maintain and control the use of bulletin boards, benches and plantings at the dog park in conformance with City standards and regulations.

E. REGULATIONS

1. The dog park will be operated in compliance with Municipal Code Chapter 6.04, Oakland Animal Control Regulations. Dog owners are responsible for their dogs' behavior at all times and will be solely liable in the event of aggressive behavior.
2. A complete list of dog park rules which will be posted at the dog park site is shown in ATTACHMENT B.

F. CLEANUP

Dog owners utilizing the dog park will be responsible for maintaining a clean dog play area at all times. Users will be directed to use the trash receptacles at the site, or take their waste with them when leave the park. The dog play area must be free of dog waste, litter and debris from dog owners at all times.

G. LPDOG RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Maintenance of plantings installed for the dog play area.
2. Regular monitoring to ensure that the dog play is clean at all times
3. Educating dog owners about cleaning the dog park so that the play area is free from litter, debris and dog waste.
4. Providing dog waste bags for dog owners.
5. Insuring that the surface of the dog park is smooth and free of holes greater than six (6) inches in diameter and/or depth.

H. CITY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Removal of trash in receptacles at the site.
2. Complaints
 - a. The City will determine the appropriate telephone number of OPR for concerns about the dog park. This telephone number will be incorporated as part of the signage shown in Attachment B.
 - b. If the City receives complaints, each complaint will be dated and logged.
 - c. If the City receives more than six (6) calls on the same issue within a four-hour period, OPR will investigate the complaint within the hour of the last complaint.
3. Providing Lakeview Dog Park signage
4. Removing graffiti on the dog park signs, fences and equipment.
5. Listing the dog park as a public facility on city websites including the OPR sites
6. Inviting a representative of the dog park to serve on all organizations serving this park and on all neighborhood councils and similar bodies formed or supported by the City that represent the neighborhood of this dog play area.

Maintenance Program

The Lakeview Dog Park has been designed in a partnership by Oakland's Department of Public Works and the Oakland Dog Owners Group to provide a clean and healthy environment that makes few demands on city resources and benefits from volunteer commitment.

Key features

- Cooperative maintenance program with DPW and dog owners group
- MOU with city and Lakeview Dog Owners Group follows successful model at other Oakland dog parks
- Decrease in amount of grass needing to be mowed because wood chips will be used in the dog run
- Donated wood chips to meet city's quality standards
- Dog waste picked up daily by users
- Magic Can underground waste system keeps waste cool and odor free and requires less frequent pick up by city than traditional waste removal systems. Very successful in other Oakland dog parks
- Plantings specified by park staff for appearance and easy long term maintenance by volunteers
- Irrigation installed and maintained by city
- Application pending with Department of Public Works volunteer Adopt-A-Spot program.

Successful Maintenance Program at Joaquin Miller Dog Park- A Model for Lakeview

The Joaquin Miller Dog Park is decommissioned about a dozen times a year and becomes a parking lot for patrons of the Woodminster Amphitheater (summer musicals, Sundays in the Redwoods concerts and spring graduations).

This plan requires a pristine environment for theater patrons which the dog owners have maintained. In five years of operation there have never been complaints about noise, litter or odor at the dog park. Although there was a great deal of skepticism that a dog park could ever be cleaned up enough to be used by other park patrons, the President of the group producing the summer musicals has written a letter of praise to the dog park volunteers saying that the park is always clean and the volunteers have been easy to work with.

The success of the volunteer maintenance program is documented by letters from producer of Woodminster Summer Musical and by park supervisor.

Maintenance Schedule at the Proposed Dog Park

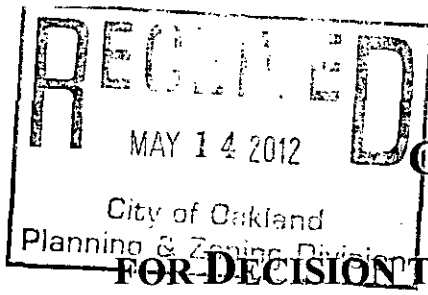
Task	Frequency	City Responsibilities	Users Responsibilities	
Dog waste pick up	Daily	NO	Yes, absolutely	
Waste Can Emptied	As needed	Yes		
Fence Maintenance	As needed	Has not been needed at other Oakland dog parks		
Lawn	NA	NA	NA	
Wood Chip Surface	3x year	No	Donated by The Professional Tree Care Company (see letter attached)	
Graffiti Removal	As needed	Has not been needed at other dog parks. City will remove major graffiti	Minor Graffiti	
Vines and Flowers	As needed	City will repair irrigation if needed	The Paw & Prune Club at Lakeview Dog Park	

THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENTS TO THE MAY 2, 2012, PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN THE PROJECT FILE:

- E. PRAC Meeting Report/Minutes (July, 2006)
- F. PRAC Meeting Report/Minutes (December, 2010)
- G. PRAC Meeting Report/Minutes (July, 2011)
- H. Project Summary / History & Timeline of Public Processes
- I. Alternative Findings (Findings for Denial)
- J. Comment Letters and Petitions

ATTACHMENT B

**Appeal of Planning Commission Decision
May 14, 2012**



**CITY OF OAKLAND
APPEAL FORM**

**FOR DECISION TO PLANNING COMMISSION, CITY
COUNCIL OR HEARING OFFICER**

MAY 14 2012 PM 3:51

MAY 14 2012 PM 3:51

PROJECT INFORMATION

Case No. of Appealed Project: CU 11-208

Project Address of Appealed Project: LAKEVIEW PARK, APN: 011-0836-041-04

Assigned Case Planner/City Staff: ANN CLEVENGER

APPELLANT INFORMATION:

Printed Name: RENA RICKLES for Emily Rosenberg Phone Number: 510-462-1600

Mailing Address: 1970 BROADWAY Alternate Contact Number: 917-9553

City/Zip Code: OAKLAND 94612 Representing: Emily Rosenberg, Co-Founder ODOG

Email: RENA RICKLES / RENA@RICKLESLaw.com

An appeal is hereby submitted on:

- AN ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION (APPEALABLE TO THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION OR HEARING OFFICER)**

N/A

YOU MUST INDICATE ALL THAT APPLY:

- Approving an application on an Administrative Decision
- Denying an application for an Administrative Decision
- Administrative Determination or Interpretation by the Zoning Administrator
- Other (please specify) _____

Please identify the specific Administrative Decision/Determination Upon Which Your Appeal is Based Pursuant to the Oakland Municipal and Planning Codes listed below:

- Administrative Determination or Interpretation (OPC Sec. 17.132.020)
- Determination of General Plan Conformity (OPC Sec. 17.01.080)
- Design Review (OPC Sec. 17.136.080)
- Small Project Design Review (OPC Sec. 17.136.130)
- Minor Conditional Use Permit (OPC Sec. 17.134.060)
- Minor Variance (OPC Sec. 17.148.060)
- Tentative Parcel Map (OMC Section 16.304.100)
- Certain Environmental Determinations (OPC Sec. 17.158.220)
- Creek Protection Permit (OMC Sec. 13.16.450)
- Creek Determination (OMC Sec. 13.16.460)
- City Planner's determination regarding a revocation hearing (OPC Sec. 17.152.080)
- Hearing Officer's revocation/impose or amend conditions (OPC Sees. 17.152.150 &/or 17.156.160)
- Other (please specify) _____

(continued on reverse)

(Continued)

- A DECISION OF THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION (APPEALABLE TO THE CITY COUNCIL)** Granting an application to: **OR** Denying an application to:

YOU MUST INDICATE ALL THAT APPLY:

Pursuant to the Oakland Municipal and Planning Codes listed below:

- Major Conditional Use Permit (OPC Sec. 17.134.070)
- Major Variance (OPC Sec. 17.148.070)
- Design Review (OPC Sec. 17.136.090)
- Tentative Map (OMC Sec. 16.32.090)
- Planned Unit Development (OPC Sec. 17.140.070)
- Environmental Impact Report Certification (OPC Sec. 17.158.220F)
- Rezoning, Landmark Designation, Development Control Map, Law Change (OPC Sec. 17.144.070)
- Revocation/impose or amend conditions (OPC Sec. 17.152.160)
- Revocation of Deemed Approved Status (OPC Sec. 17.156.170)
- Other (please specify) _____

FOR ANY APPEAL: An appeal in accordance with the sections of the Oakland Municipal and Planning Codes listed above shall state specifically wherein it is claimed there was an error or abuse of discretion by the Zoning Administrator, other administrative decisionmaker or Commission (Advisory Agency) or wherein their/its decision is not supported by substantial evidence in the record, or in the case of Rezoning, Landmark Designation, Development Control Map, or Law Change by the Commission, shall state specifically wherein it is claimed the Commission erred in its decision.

You must raise each and every issue you wish to appeal on this Appeal Form (or attached additional sheets). Failure to raise each and every issue you wish to challenge/appeal on this Appeal Form (or attached additional sheets), and provide supporting documentation along with this Appeal Form, may preclude you from raising such issues during your appeal and/or in court. However, the appeal will be limited to issues and/or evidence presented to the decision-maker prior to the close of the public hearing/comment period on the matter.

The appeal is based on the following: *(Attach additional sheets as needed.)*

(see attached)

Supporting Evidence or Documents Attached. *(The appellant must submit all supporting evidence along with this Appeal Form; however, the appeal will be limited to evidence presented to the decision-maker prior to the close of the public hearing/comment period on the matter.)*

BRIEFING BOOK, presented to Planning Commission

(Continued on reverse)

(Continued)

Roma Rickles
Signature of Appellant or Representative of
Appealing Organization

May 14, 2012
Date

.....
Date/Time Received Stamp Below:

Below For Staff Use Only

Cashier's Receipt Stamp Below:
.....

Appeal to the Oakland City Council of the 5/2/12 Oakland Planning Commission denial of Case No. CU-11-208, Parks and Recreation Department's ("PRAC") and Oakland Dog Owner's Group ("ODOG") to establish a dog park in Lakeview Park as set out in the Lake Merritt Master Plan ("LMMP") and the Adams Point Design Plan

RENA RICKLES

Attorney at Law

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OAKLAND, CA 94612
TEL: (510) 452-1600 FAX: (510) 451-4115
EMAIL: rena@rickleslaw.com

Ann Clevenger, City Planner III
City of Oakland
Community and Economic Development Agency
Planning and Zoning Division
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 2114
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Appeal to the Oakland City Council of the 5/2/12 Oakland Planning Commission denial of Case No. CU-11-208, Parks and Recreation Department's ("PRAC") and Oakland Dog Owner's Group ("ODOG") to establish a dog park in Lakeview Park as set out in the Lake Merritt Master Plan ("LMMP") and the Adams Point Design Plan¹

INTRODUCTION

This office represents the appeal of several leaders and members of Oakland Dog Owners Group ("ODOG") to overturn the Planning Commission's less than majority¹ decision to deny permission to Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation and ODOG to install a dog park at Lakeview Park. The decision was made with less than ten minutes of discussion and no questions or proposed compromises to the applicants after more than three hours of public testimony. The four planning commissioners voted three against and one abstention in response to the Staff Report recommending approval of the dog park. None of the three Commissioners voting against had visited the site with the Applicant.

The Commission denied the request for approval even though The City Council unanimously approved the Lake Merritt Master Plan (LMMP) in July 2002. That plan included a fenced dog park at Lakeview Park, along with specific criteria, all of which have been met in this proposal.² (May 2, 2012, Staff Report, p.4)³ Then, in December, 2002, the Adams Point Urban Design Plan ("APUDP"), adopted and submitted, after numerous public hearings, an approximately 15,000 sq/f fenced in dog play area in Lakeview Park. (ODOG submission, "Public Process") The development of both of these plans included extensive public review and comment.

¹ The full Planning Commission consists of seven members; four were present; three voted against.

² This appeal, regardless of whether the language is specific to a single section, finding or the decision in its entirety shall be considered as an appeal to each and every determination in this matter, including "evidence" supporting each finding, and the decision on the CUP.

³ Unless otherwise stated, all references to "Staff Report" will be to the Staff Report prepared for the May 2, 2012 Planning Commission meeting.

Appeal to the Oakland City Council of the 5/2/12 Oakland Planning Commission denial of Case No. CU-11-208, Parks and Recreation Department's ("PRAC") and Oakland Dog Owner's Group ("ODOG") to establish a dog park in Lakeview Park as set out in the Lake Merritt Master Plan ("LMMP") and the Adams Point Design Plan

Even though the creation of a fenced in dog park in the Lake Merritt area has been identified as an unmet need since 1998 by the Northlake Neighborhood Group ("NLNG"), the site selected in 2002 in the LMMP, and the specifics of the dog play area in this location the subject of a public meeting hosted by the District 2 and At Large Councilmembers in 2004 and approved by the PRAC (at publicly noticed meetings) in 2006 and 2010, at the May 2, 2012, hearing, the Planning Commission faced two large, impassioned groups—one supporting the last step in the long, public process; the other, opposing a dog park at this location, as if 14 years of planning had not preceded this hearing.⁴

After ODOG and its supporters were rebuffed from their attempts to locate a dog park at Splash Pad in 1998, worked for eight (8) years with PRAC, Public Works and District 2, 3 and At Large Council Members to find the best possible dog park site in the Lake Merritt area—meeting the criteria for distance from wildlife sanctuary, low impact on other users, and the community—Lakeview Park.⁵ That site, a larger, significantly more expensive version of the current application was approved by the PRAC in 2006. The needs of other users—tot lot, soccer players and others were fully addressed in those plans. (*ibid.*) When that dog park proved to be too expensive, ODOG worked for another four years, and several designs to arrive at the currently proposed design and site. They were enthusiastic and full of hope that after 14 years, their dream to provide the over 40% of dog owning households⁶ access to a minimal (1%) of Lake Merritt open space would come true. The beneficiaries of this dog park would include those in nearby apartments, seniors, those who do not drive, and the physically disabled, who are all prohibited by City code from using Lakeside Park and Lakeview Park with their dogs and have been relegated to the concrete edges of Lake Merritt.

The second group, equally large, was composed of people who stated they loved dogs but wanted a dog park somewhere else, anywhere else. That group argued, without any factual basis, that the proposed dog park would interfere with soccer players, endanger children inside and alongside the tot lot, make "their" green park look brown and fence out a highly used area from the kids, and that the park would be for the dogs and not for people. They also argued that, despite a record replete with evidence of 14 years public input, meetings, and hearings that this dog park was sprung suddenly upon them without any notice. Even worse, they convinced three members of the Planning Commission that another site in the Lake Merritt area could be approved after this site was denied. "Worse" for two reasons: 1) both Council Members who are on different sides of this issue agree that there is no other alternative site in the Lake Merritt area; and 2) they provided the Commission a 'solution' that didn't exist⁷ rendering the opponent's mantra "Right Idea; Wrong Location", to be 'real' solution that cannot be achieved.

⁴ The current councilmembers representing the location of the park and the people, who would be benefitted or impacted by it, were personally involved (as Staff or as a councilmember) in the site selection and approval.

⁵ PRAC Staff Report, December 8, 2010.

⁶ Source: American Pet Products Association; Section 2 Applicant's Briefing Book

⁷ Statements made to this writer by Councilmembers Kernighan and Nadal and presented in testimony before the Planning Commission.

Appeal to the Oakland City Council of the 5/2/12 Oakland Planning Commission denial of Case No. CU-11-208, Parks and Recreation Department's ("PRAC") and Oakland Dog Owner's Group ("ODOG") to establish a dog park in Lakeview Park as set out in the Lake Merritt Master Plan ("LMMP") and the Adams Point Design Plan

Unless the City Council reverses the Planning Commission vote the 40% of residents of the Lake Merritt area who own dogs will continue to be barred from participating and congregating in the 85+ acres of Lake Merritt parklands, unless they leave their dogs at home. No other group, parents, seniors, soccer players, sports camps, or exercise classes are similarly excluded. The suggestion by one Council Member that the use and enjoyment of Lake Merritt and any of its green space by the dog owning community (again over 40% of the population) can wait until the City conducts a city-wide study of dog park locations, constitutes cruel and illusory solace to the dog owners who spent 14 years (with support and encouragement from PRAC, public works, neighborhood groups) believing in the promises of obtaining this location. ⁸They have good reason to feel betrayed by this suggestion: Oakland is long on time, money and energy consuming studies; and short on completed actions.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Since the late 1990's ODOG, the Northlake Neighbors Group, and the Adams Point neighbors have worked for 14 years in good faith with City leaders to find a place where, they, like their neighbors who don't have dogs, could meet and socialize and form a community with other dog owners while at the same time providing their 'best friends' the socialization and exercise they need at or near Oakland's community jewel, Lake Merritt.

After four years they compromised and gave up on every location except Lakeview Park the only location that the planners, consultants, and City leaders stated they could have. They then worked tirelessly, within the dictated confines, to achieve that goal. After City resources and offers of volunteer union labor failed to materialize on their ideal park, they retrenched, redesigned, and after another four years, came up with a less expensive but equally attractive dog park design. Then when they were on the cusp of success, a well intentioned neighbor promoted the dog park on her neighborhood list serve. What followed was a maelstrom of anger, betrayal, NIMBY (not where I can see it), classism ("people who live in apartments [without their own backyards] shouldn't have dogs"), baseless fear mongering (children will be bitten and attacked, horrible stench, pollution of Lake Merritt), and an undercurrent of race baiting (these dog owners are gentrifying the park, cutting off the use from flatlands soccer players) ⁹ which crowded out all reasonable discussion.

This group of angry opponents took their furor to the Planning Commission where they shouted, applauded loudly all of their speakers, interrupted, repeatedly exceeded their allotted time and cut off dog park proponents' testimony. There they promoted their desire to prevent the dog owning community from any access whatsoever to Lakeview Park, by sanctimoniously

⁸ A post-hearing conversation between Councilmember Kernighan and Emily Rosenberg, co-founder of ODOG.

⁹ Davey D at ; these examples are just a sample of emotional, fearful, loud argument, but not facts utilized to prevent this dog park.

Appeal to the Oakland City Council of the 5/2/12 Oakland Planning Commission denial of Case No. CU-11-208, Parks and Recreation Department's ("PRAC") and Oakland Dog Owner's Group ("ODOG") to establish a dog park in Lakeview Park as set out in the Lake Merritt Master Plan ("LMMP") and the Adams Point Design Plan

stating they 'love' dogs [but just not here], or falsely claiming that another Lake Merritt site was available, and they would help find it.

Unsurprisingly, the three members of the Planning Commission that voted to deny this dog park stated (without any benefit of factual support) they thought there could a better location in Lake Merritt essentially 'making the perfect the enemy of the good'

The Staff Report, the Staff recommendation for approval, the Staff findings for support, the documents in the City file, and the testimony at the Planning Commission hearing all mandate that the City Council decide that this appeal, for the reasons discussed below should be granted, thus allowing the 14-year effort of ODOG, their supporters and the dog owning community a small share (1%) of the park area around Lake Merritt or 13% of Lakeview Park. It's fair to share.

GENERAL GROUNDS (Legal) FOR APPEAL

This appeal to the above-captioned decision must be granted on the following general grounds:

1. The evidence and/or lack of evidence does not support the findings for denial;
2. The findings do not support the decision(s); and
Acting as it did, on the above record, the Planning Commission acted in excess of and without jurisdiction.¹⁰

In order for this Planning Commission's decision to be legally sustainable, the decision must be within and not in excess of the Planning Commission's jurisdiction. (CCP Sec. 1094.5 (b)). To be within this commission's jurisdiction, this decision must be supported by the findings and the findings must be supported by the evidence or facts presented. (*Ibid.*) Under this standard, the Staff's provided Findings for Support satisfy all three requirements to be legally sustainable; the Findings for Denial, fail all three requirements. Moreover, because substantial evidence to support the Findings for Denial cannot be made, a decision for denial is legally unsupportable.

Acceptable evidence to support a finding is evidence that provides the logical step between the ultimate decision and the facts in the record. (Public Resources Code, Section 21082.2 (c)).

This includes facts, reasonable assumptions predicated on those facts, and expert opinion supported by facts. (*Ibid.*) Argument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous is clearly not acceptable evidence. (Cal. Pub. Resources Code Sec. 15384 (a))

¹⁰In this case, where the findings cannot be supported because either no evidence or evidence insufficient to support a finding was presented, and it is the Applicant and/or the City that have the requirement to present that evidence, Appellant need only to point to the lack of the requisite evidence to prevail.

Appeal to the Oakland City Council of the 5/2/12 Oakland Planning Commission denial of Case No. CU-11-208, Parks and Recreation Department's ("PRAC") and Oakland Dog Owner's Group ("ODOG") to establish a dog park in Lakeview Park as set out in the Lake Merritt Master Plan ("LMMP") and the Adams Point Design Plan

I. SPECIFIC GROUNDS FOR APPEAL: FINDINGS FOR DENIAL UNDER SECTION 17.134.050: BECAUSE THESE FINDINGS ARE BASED ON SPECULATION, UNSUBSTANTIATED OPINION OR EVIDENCE WHICH IS CLEARLY ERRONEOUS, THEY CANNOT SUPPORT A DECISION FOR DENIAL.

- A. "Livability: The evidence supporting this finding is based on erroneous facts, speculation not based on facts and unsubstantiated opinion, as follows:
- That Lakeview Park at 3.66 acres is at the smaller end of the size range (2-10 acres under OSCAR); FALSE, Lakeview Park is 6.7 acres and is in the upper size range of parks designated Neighborhood Park in the OSCAR
 - The 20,778 square feet of enclosed dog play takes only 23% of the field area. As such it is not a substantial portion of the open field, nor is it a substantial impact on Lakeview Park as a whole at just over 13% of the 6.7 acre park.
 - Proximity to Astro Park, tot play area: The substantiated evidence based on almost ten years at Hardy Park is that dogs playing in a fenced off area in even closer proximity to a tot lot, do not create any safety issues; any statement to the contrary is based on unsubstantiated opinion
 - Maintenance and health related dog waste issues: The maintenance required for this proposed park is based on the proven maintenance and waste clean-up at the successful Joaquin Miller dog park; any evidence to the contrary is based upon unsubstantiated opinion.

Fencing: The substantial evidence based on photographs in the record of the proposed fencing shows that the vine covered fencing will blend in with the green field area. Moreover, Lake Merritt now has many significant areas which are fenced off and do not impact the 'desirability' of the park, e.g.

- The Japanese gardens
- Children's Fairyland
- The lawn bowling area
- The boat docks
- The tot lot near the Rotary Nature Center
- The geodesic domed bird enclosures by the lake
- The fence around the duck ponds
- The animal enclosures in the Nature Center and the fence *that encloses the outer perimeter*
- *Fence just installed near the Lake Chalet*

Appeal to the Oakland City Council of the 5/2/12 Oakland Planning Commission denial of Case No. CU-11-208, Parks and Recreation Department's ("PRAC") and Oakland Dog Owner's Group ("ODOG") to establish a dog park in Lakeview Park as set out in the Lake Merritt Master Plan ("LMMP") and the Adams Point Design Plan

B. Location, design and site planning. The language stating that the wood chips in the dog area would adversely impact the visual impact of this high profile location is again not based on facts as the photographic evidence is that the wood chips

would be camouflaged by vine covered fencing. Moreover, the Tot Lot's surface is the same wood chip material, and there are no issues regarding its adverse visual effect. The concerns regarding a supposed lack of self-policing by dog owners causing future blight arise out of 'what ifs'. The proven history is that dog owners in Oakland take responsible care of the dog parks and do not allow odors and mess to accumulate. The agreements in the Memorandum of Understanding between the dog owners and the City call out the dog owners' responsibility to perform maintenance and clean up.

C. Enhance operation of the surrounding area, or provide an essential service to the community. The statement that because this proposal dedicates one-half an acre to a dog park use, it compromises the other current users is FALSE. First, this dog part will take only 1% of the Lake Merritt open space. Second, evidence provided at the hearing will show that the area proposed for the dog park is the least used area in Lakeview Park. Third, there are dedicated uses at this park and all through Oakland parks including playgrounds, tennis courts, soccer fields and gardens. A dedicated use does not exclude all users, it provides for users with a specific need or interest. A dog park at this location was identified as an essential service/need for this area in the Specific Plan for Lake Merritt and in the Adams Point design plan.

D. Design for this proposal conforms to all applicable Design Review Criteria. While the OSCAR stated that this area is better suited for 'active recreation', the more specific and later enacted Lake Merritt Specific Plan and Adams Point Design Plan both, after significant public input, determined that this location should have a dog park.

E. Conforms in all significant respects with the Oakland Comprehensive Plan and with any other applicable plan or development control map adopted by the City Council. It is uncontroverted law the specific laws are to be granted greater weight than the general laws upon which they followed. The same is true for later enacted legislation over earlier legislation. A dog park in this area is not prohibited by General Plan or by the Oscar. However, the more specific and later enacted Lake Merritt Specific Plan and the Adams Point Urban Design Plan,--1) call for a dog park in this park; and 2) for a large 14-15,000 square foot dog park

Appeal to the Oakland City Council of the 5/2/12 Oakland Planning Commission denial of Case No. CU-11-208, Parks and Recreation Department's ("PRAC") and Oakland Dog Owner's Group ("ODOG") to establish a dog park in Lakeview Park as set out in the Lake Merritt Master Plan ("LMMP") and the Adams Point Design Plan

along MacArthur. These later enacted adopted Plans better address this finding than do the more general plans suggested in the Staff Report. *The OSCAR calls out "Major Unmet Needs in Oakland Parks" and lists "dog park, providing exercise/play areas" as one of the needs. (Table 16, page 4-43)*

FINDINGS IN SUPPORT OF THE GENERAL USE PERMIT TO ESTABLISH THE DOG PARK. **The Staff Provided Findings to Approve the Dog Park as Proposed are Based on Facts, Reasonable Assumptions from Facts, Expert Opinions Based on Facts, and as such, Provide the Legally Required Bridge from Evidence to the only Factually and Legally Sustainable Decision—Approval**

II. SPECIFIC GROUNDS FOR APPEAL: STAFF FINDINGS FOR SUPPORT MET ALL LEGAL STANDARDS

Because the Staff Recommendation was for Approval of the Dog Park at Lakeview Park were based on an accurate assessment of the evidence in the record, this part of the Appeal will reiterate Staff's Findings which were presented to the Planning Commission. The additions, which will be shown in italics and contained within parentheses, will either buttress or amend the facts for accuracy or completeness, and/or cite the source ("evidence") for each finding.¹¹ Appellant's emphasis of certain evidence will be supplied by underlining.

All of the Use Permit Criteria under OMC §17.134.050 must be met in order for the City to grant a Use Permit. This burden was satisfied in Staff's proposed findings as buttressed by Applicant's additional evidence, evidence that is in the record and presented to the Planning Commission.

SECTION 17.134.050 – GENERAL USE PERMIT CRITERIA:

- A. **Compatibility and Livability of the proposed development to abutting properties and the surrounding neighborhood, with consideration to be given to harmony in scale, bulk, coverage, and density; to harmful effect, if any, upon desirable neighborhood character; to the generation of traffic and the capacity of surrounding streets; and to any other relevant impact of the development.**

The Dog Play Area would be located in Lakeview Park, a 3.66 (*Lakeview Park is 6.7 acres; the open field portion of that park is 3.66 acres*) acre park bounded by Grand Avenue, MacArthur Blvd, Lakeshore Avenue and El Embarcadero. Currently there is a library (Lakeview Library), a children's play area

(Astro Park), and a multi-purpose field. The Dog Play Area would be located at the corner of the field area at MacArthur Blvd. and Lakeshore Ave.

Lakeview Park is adjacent to Lakeside Park (a much larger region-serving park), which surrounds Lake Merritt (approx. 75 acres). The two parks together provide children's playgrounds (including Astro Park in Lakeview Park near the proposed dog play area) and more than 75 acres of green space around the

¹¹ Where the facts cited are indisputable, such as the surrounding streets, no source will be cited.

Appeal to the Oakland City Council of the 5/2/12 Oakland Planning Commission denial of Case No. CU-11-208, Parks and Recreation Department's ("PRAC") and Oakland Dog Owner's Group ("ODOG") to establish a dog park in Lakeview Park as set out in the Lake Merritt Master Plan ("LMMP") and the Adams Point Design Plan

Lake available for multiple types of uses, including picnicking, informal sports games, exercise classes, jogging, boating, etc.

At 20,778 s.f, the dog run would take up about 23% of (the open field portion of) Lakeview Park; the Astro Park children's playground takes up about 11% of the field, and the remaining 66% is available for soccer, picnics, etc. Again, when viewed together, the Dog Play Area takes up less than 1% of the green space in the overall Lake Merritt Area and less than 25% of Lakeview Park.

Lakeview Dog Play Area is designed with attention to aesthetic quality (using a 4' high ornamental iron fence with flowering vines to be planted along its perimeter), a maintenance component (MOU between the City and the Oakland Dog Owners Group), and would be the only dog play area located in Central Oakland.

Since dogs are banned from all City parks, including Lake Merritt, except for a few locations that received special approval (the nearest Oakland dog park to this neighborhood is in Mosswood Park, about two miles away), the [Lake Merritt] area meets most outdoor recreational needs of its residents with the exception of a dog play area. The proposed dog run improves the livability of the Grand Lake and Lake Merritt community by providing a safe and legal gathering place for people of all ages and backgrounds to meet, share their interest in dogs and get to know their neighbors.

This public amenity leaves space for all the current activities at the park including the Lakeview Library, the Astro Park tot lot and the exercise bars on Grand Avenue which are used year round, as well as the field which is used for occasional pick-up soccer, kids' softball, volleyball and picnics. (PRAC maps, Applicant Power Point Presentation, and Applicant's Briefing Book, page 21)

From a safety standpoint, the Dog Play Area would provide a safe place in the park for people to watch their dogs play off-leash. *(Expert testimony of Gail Greene)* Dogs would be on-leash as they go to and from the Play Area so that at no time would other park users be forced to encounter dogs off-leash. *(MOU between PRAC and ODOG, Applicant Statement)*

Families at the Astro Park children's playground will be more than 25 feet away from the dog run fence and parents will have the choice of whether or not to let their children interact with the dogs. The area of the dog run closest to the tot lot is reserved for small dogs. The Applicant asserts [has proven] that more than a decade of experience at Hardy Park, with the fenced dog run adjacent to the children's playground, demonstrates that both uses function well in close proximity and may even help some children become less fearful of dogs. (Uncontroverted testimony at the Planning Commission; interviews with Hardy Park Tot Lot Parents contained in Section "It Works"; American Pediatric Association opinion on this matter, provided in oral testimony at the Planning Commission Hearing)

Low Visual Impact - The dog play area is designed to have minimum visual impact on the park and the neighborhood and the fence would be setback a minimum of 10 feet from the sidewalk and bus stops along MacArthur Blvd., 25' minimum from the sidewalk and bus stop along Lakeshore Ave., and 25 feet from Astro Park. *(The four-foot fence will be covered with green vines and will thus provide essentially the same open green vista for Lakeview Park viewers. Photographic rendering depicting this was shown in both the Applicant's Power Point and Briefing Book, "Architect's Design)*

Appeal to the Oakland City Council of the 5/2/12 Oakland Planning Commission denial of Case No. CU-11-208, Parks and Recreation Department's ("PRAC") and Oakland Dog Owner's Group ("ODOG") to establish a dog park in Lakeview Park as set out in the Lake Merritt Master Plan ("LMMP") and the Adams Point Design Plan

The location, design, and site planning of the proposed development will provide a convenient and functional living, working, shopping, or civic environment, and will be as attractive as the nature of the use and its location and setting warrant.

This location is convenient to serve the densely-populated downtown neighborhoods of the Grand Lake and Lake Merritt areas. It is reasonable to expect that a growing population of residents in the area's homes, apartments and condominiums will include more dog owners and further increase the demand for such community amenities as a dog play area. (*Applicant's Briefing Book, pp. 6-7*); *testimony before the Planning Commission; over 700 letters and petitions submitted into the record*)

The establishment of this Dog Play Area, as proposed, fills a significant unmet need. Currently dogs are banned from all parks in Oakland except by vote of City Council. With more than 1000 acres of park space and more than 100 City parks, Oakland has less than five acres of off-leash space (fenced dog runs from 1/3 acre to about one acre in the following City parks: Hardy Park, Mosswood Park, Jefferson Park, Joaquin Miller Park, Grove Shafter Park). None of these are convenient to residents of the Grand Lake and Lake Merritt neighborhoods. A Dog Play Area would add another amenity that would keep neighborhood residents "local", as well as attracting other people to the area's parks, shops and restaurants. (This specific location of the proposed dog park—easy walking distance from under freeway parking and from most of the Adams Point and Eastlake neighborhoods-- will also serve an additional City-wide vital need—reducing the significant retail purchasing leakage from Oakland to surrounding cities and increase retail sales to the Grand-Lakeshore shopping area. *Testimony Denise Conley, author of Oakland's Commissioned Retail Study and Pamela Drake, Director Lakeshore* _____)

As described in the findings under "A" above, the design would be attractive, using a 4' high ornamental iron fence with flowering vines to be planted along its perimeter. No structures will be erected other than this fence. The 4' fence height would allow for minimal disruption of the visual openness of the park area, while containing the dogs adequately. The flowering vines would be selected in consultation with the Office of Parks and Recreation, based on appropriateness and ease of maintenance. (*Applicant's Statement; PRAC submittals; Applicant's Power Point and Briefing Book, "Architect's Design"*)

C. That the proposed development will enhance the successful operation of the surrounding area in its basic community functions, or will provide an essential service to the community or region.

A Dog Play Area would add another amenity (*create an unmet and documented need*) that would keep neighborhood residents "local", as well as attracting other people to the area's parks, shops and restaurants. Many people move to Lake Merritt for a "greener" lifestyle and want to be able to walk to their community amenities. This specific location near Lake Merritt is planned so that its accessibility, design and site planning will best serve the needs of the greatest array of potential users. The site was selected after years of study and community input. (*Applicant's Statement, Power Point, Briefing Book, Public Process*)

The Dog Play Area would provide an essential service to the neighborhood because dogs are currently prohibited, even on-leash, in Lakeview Park, Lakeside Park and most other Oakland parks. The nearest park where people can take their dog is more than a mile away. (*Applicant's Briefing Book, pages 4-5*)

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Dog owning families can't legally bring their dogs with them while their children play in Astro Park or other parts of Lakeview or Lakeside Park. Elderly people who have had to limit or eliminate their driving will be able to exercise their dogs near home. Walking to the Dog Play Area would become a daily ritual for many people which gives them exercise, a sense of community and brings foot traffic to the shopping areas. Dog owners now must drive to their dogs to parks in Piedmont, Alameda and Berkeley.

Moreover, the dog park's proximity to the parking that serves both the retail area and the dog park will bring additional shoppers to the near-by retail stores.

D. That the proposal conforms to all applicable design review criteria set forth in the Design Review Procedure at Section 17.136.050.

Exterior changes related to the Dog Play Area include: Perimeter and interior fences and gates; informational and decorative signage; landscaping and irrigation, water and waste facilities. Staff believes that the fence design will be reasonably attractive, landscaped to provide a visual buffer with the rest of the park. See findings in Design Review Findings section.

E. That the proposal conforms in all significant respects with the Oakland Comprehensive Plan and with any other applicable plan or development control map which has been adopted by the City Council.

Oakland General Plan

The Oakland General Plan Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE) was updated in 1998 and designates this site as "Urban Open Space". The dog run maintains open space and does not create any new enclosed structures at the site.

Open Space Conservation and Recreation Plan (OSCAR)

The Open Space Conservation and Recreation Plan (OSCAR), was adopted in 1996 as an element of the Oakland General Plan. The Introduction to Chapter 4, Recreation, states that this chapter "...is comprehensive in scope but not intended to be a 'Park Master Plan.' The City still needs to prepare a plan which specifically addresses capital improvements, funding sources, park administration and program changes. The OSCAR Element sets a policy framework for such a plan but stops short of making detailed recommendations for service delivery and capital improvements."

Table 16, page 4-43 of OSCAR lists 20 items that are identified as "Major Unmet Capital Needs in Oakland Parks (not necessarily in priority order). Item #12 on the list states: "Dog park', providing exercise/play areas and possibly providing obedience training, veterinary and vaccination services, and a kennel (citywide)."

OSCAR classifies Lakeview Park as a Neighborhood Park. It states that these are parks generally ranging from 2-10 acres in size and located in a residential area within walking distance of its primary uses, and

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Lake Merritt Park Master Plan

The Lake Merritt Park Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in 2002 as a Master Plan document providing a comprehensive set of recommendations for future development and activity around Lake Merritt.

The Plan includes the following references to a dog park along MacArthur Blvd., at the currently proposed site:

The Plan's Park Programming Map (Figure 3.2) includes a reference to a "Potential Off-Leash Dog Area" within Lakeview Park, in approximately the same location as the proposed Dog Play Area. Reference is again made to a special area for dogs along MacArthur Boulevard; off-leash status pursuant to City of Oakland regulations with low fencing required in off-leash area. (Also see Adams Point Urban Design Plan, which provides design, fencing and proposed budget for an off-leash dog park at Lakeview Park)

Table V.1 of the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan lists Project Descriptions for numerous recommended projects for which corresponding locations are illustrated on Figure V.1. Among them include "LKSH 9", with a title of Eastshore Park Renovation and describes "*Renovation of park area including parking lot; library sitework; open lawn areas; dog area enclosure; sports facilities; lighting; planting; irrigation.*"

An off-leash dog area at Lakeview Park was recommended in the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan and the Adams Point Neighborhood Plan, both approved and adopted by City Council in 2002.

Staff finds that this proposal, as designed and at this location conforms with the Oakland General Plan, Open Space Element, Zoning regulations, District Plans and Area Master Plans.

CONCLUSION

Appellants request that for the foregoing reasons, the City Council determine and act as follows:

1. Grant Appellants' appeal in its entirety and approve the PRAC's and ODOG's application for a community dog park at Lakeview Park; ;
2. Move forward immediately to amend the OMC to allow an off-leash dog play area as well as on-leash access across Lakeview Park to the dog play area.

Appellants, in the interest of finding an equitable solution that works for both neighbor groups, propose working with the in that way everyone will have a much better understanding and

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appreciation of the benefits of a dog play area in this as well as other sites enhances and benefits everyone on in Oakland.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very Truly Yours,



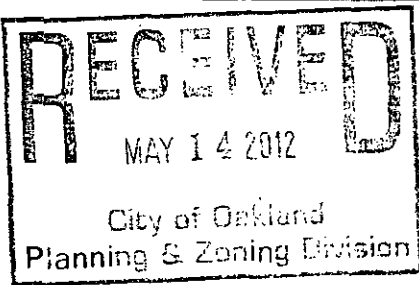
Rena Rickles

Attachments: Appellant's Briefing Book

CC: Mayor Jean Quan
Councilmembers
Emily Rosenberg
Michelle Dong
Terry Boom
Paul Vidican



MAY 14 2012 PM 3:51



Lakeview Dog Play Area

**A Public-Private Partnership to create a new amenity
in Oakland's most densely populated neighborhood**

Presented to the Oakland Planning Commission:

Vien Truong, Chair

C. Blake Huntsman, Vice Chair

Michael Colbruno

Chris Pattillo

Jonelyn Whales

Madeleine Zayas-Mart

May 2, 2012



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Sports field at Bella Vista Park, about 3/4 mile from Lakeview Park, see map, page 4

Oakland Parks Offer Many Options



Mosswood Park



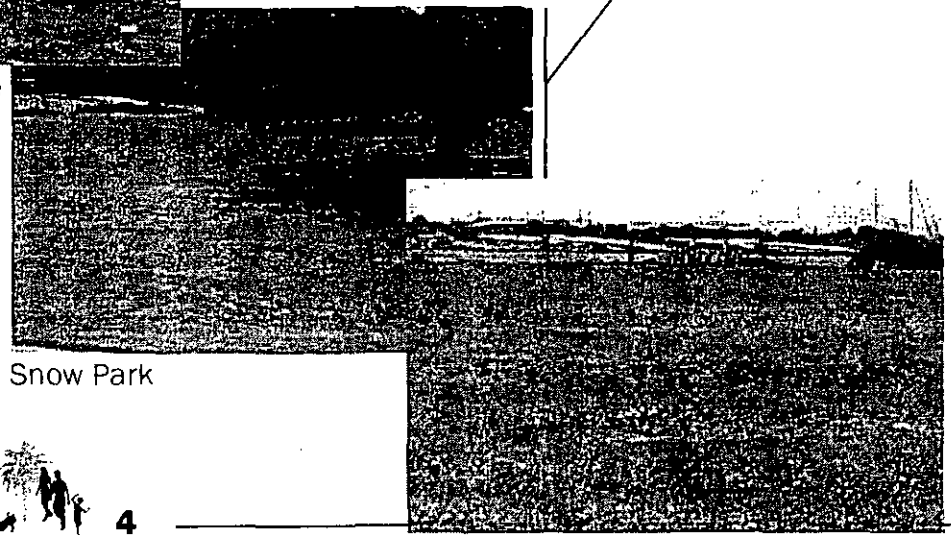
Lakeside Park, Near the Bellevue Club



Lakeside Park, Near Children's Fairyland



Lafayette Park

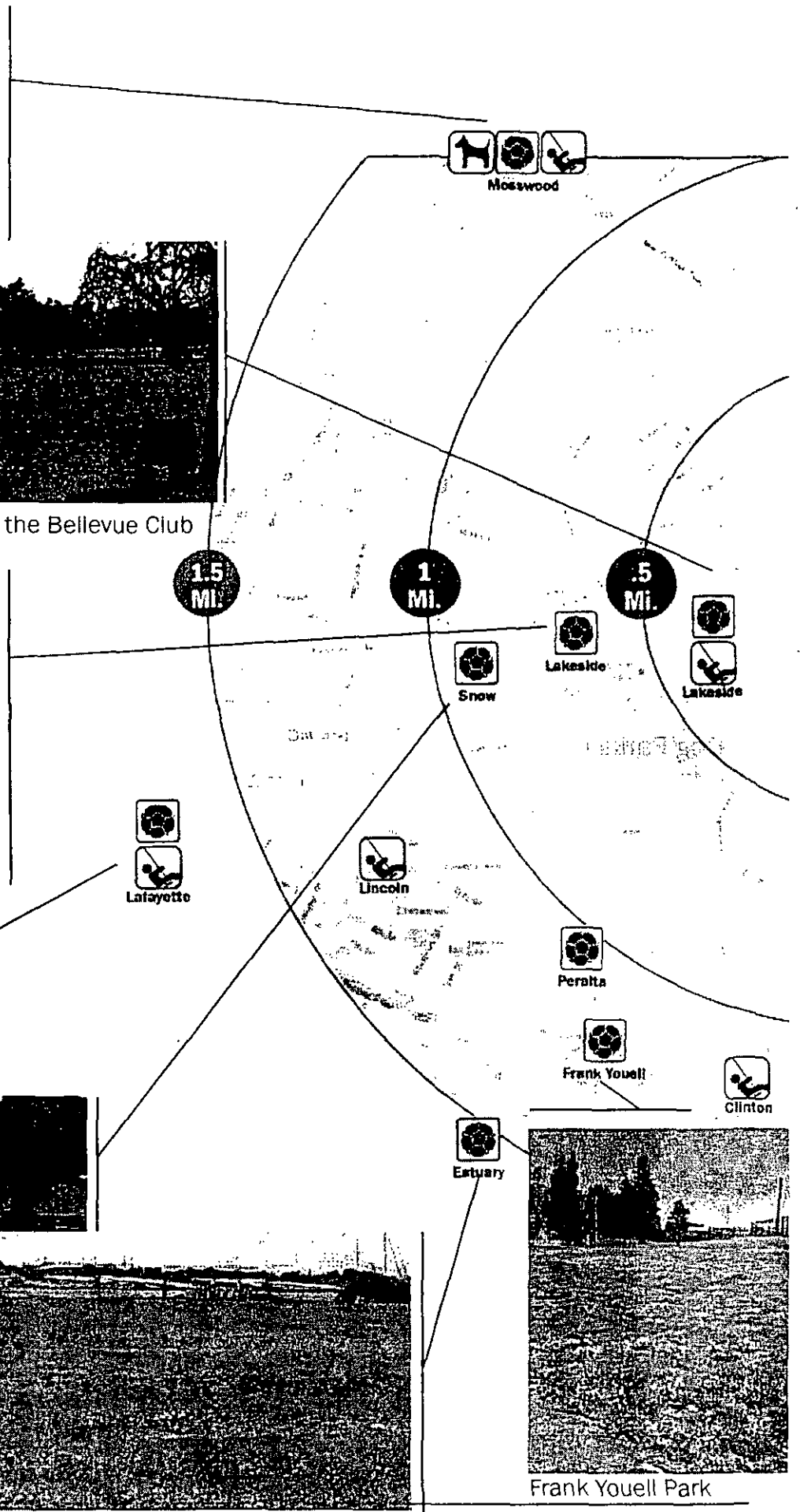


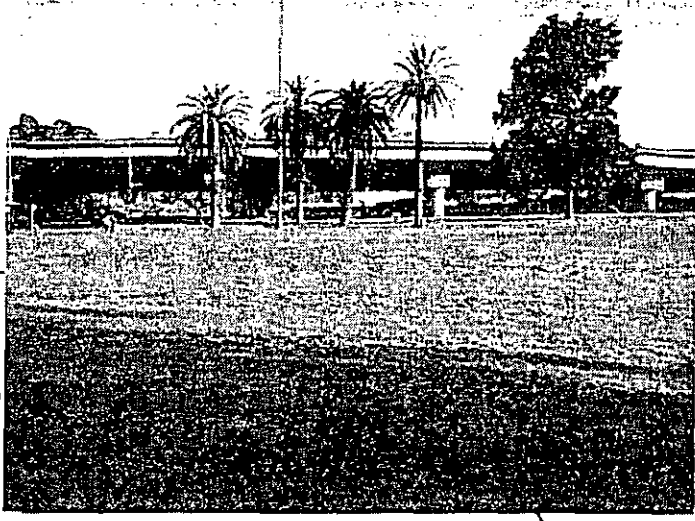
Snow Park

Estuary Park



Frank Youell Park





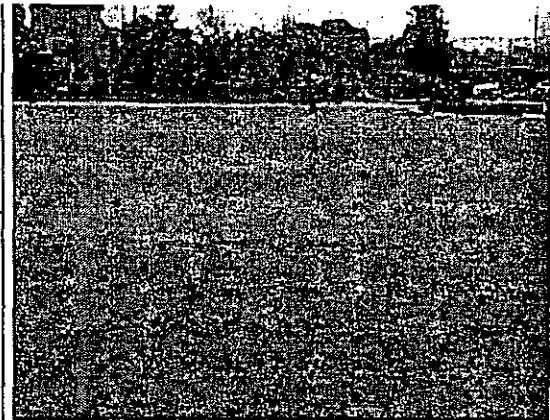
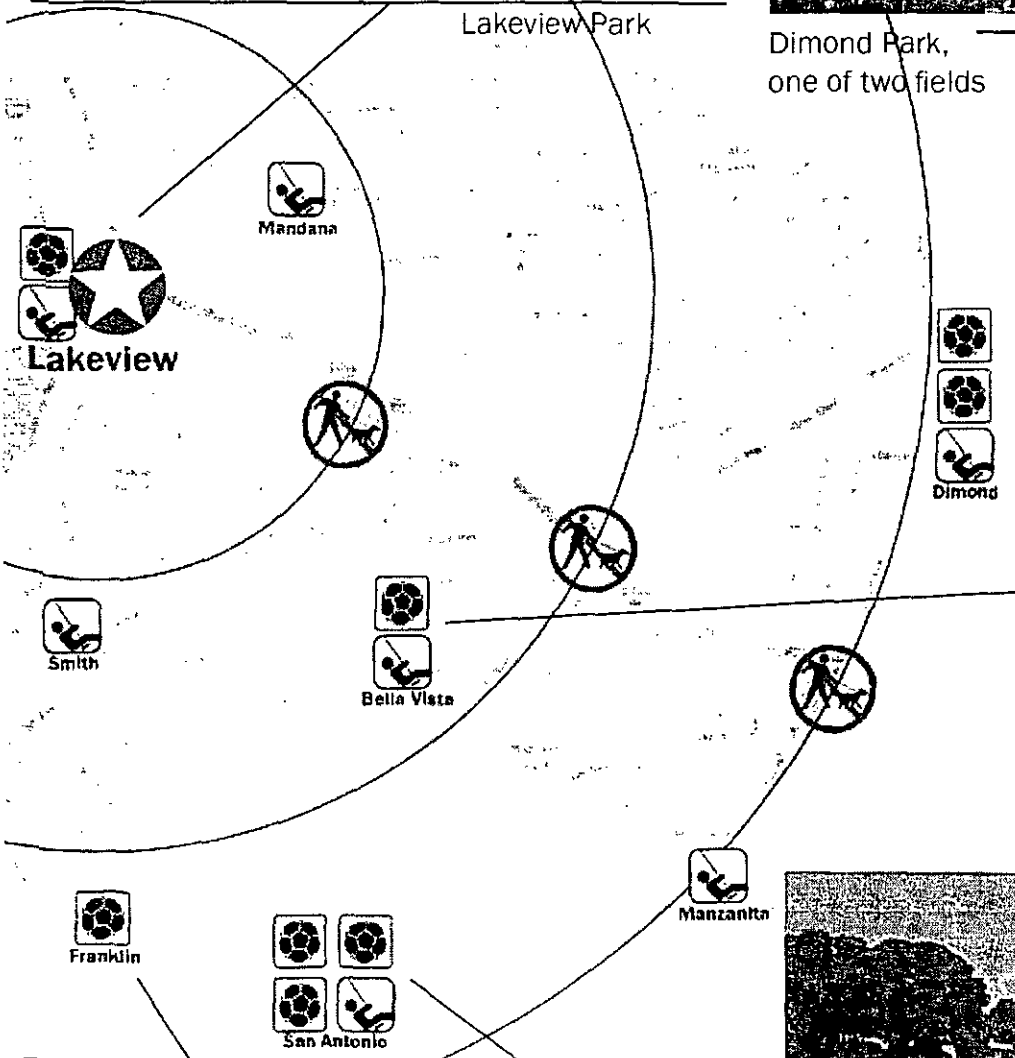
Lakeview Park



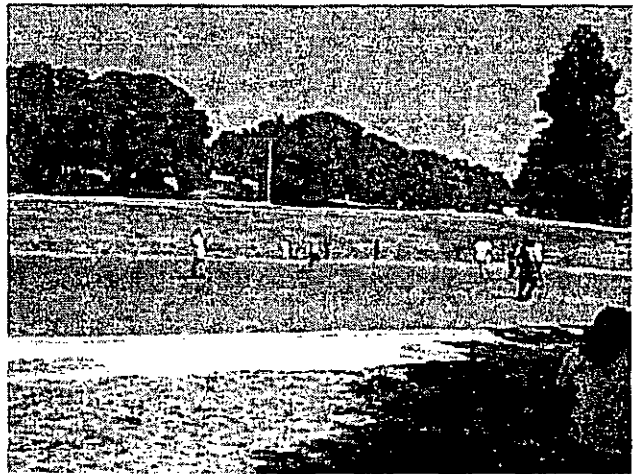
Dimond Park,
one of two fields

LEGEND

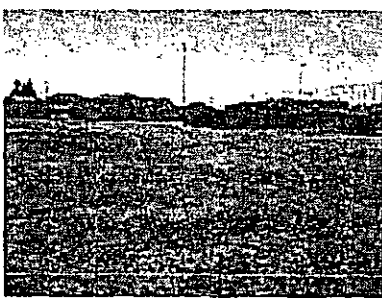
-  Lakeview Park
-  Sports Field
-  Kid's Play Area
-  Distance from Lakeview
-  No Dogs Allowed,
even on leash



Bella Vista Park



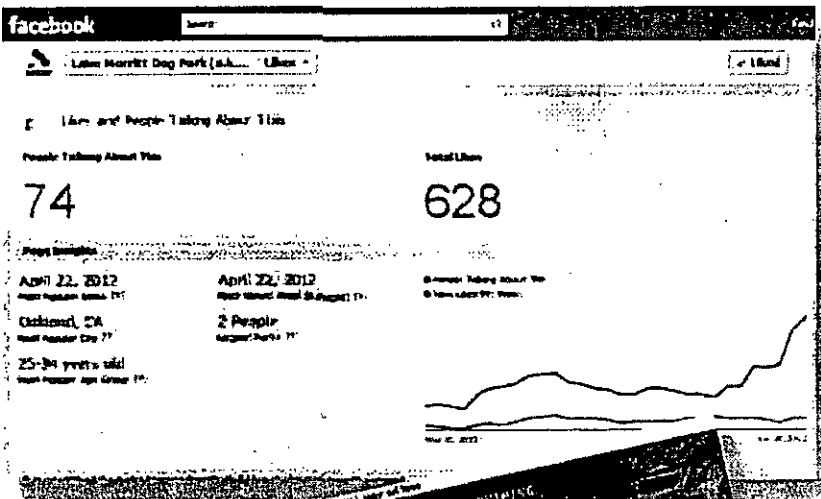
San Antonio Park, one of three fields




Franklin Park


Broad Community Support

We have large numbers of supporters on social media and our email lists, articles supporting us in local media, and the support of local businesses.





Recommendations for Lake Merritt Dog Park (a.k.a. Lakeview Dog Play Area)

- 


Christina Sablen
Help out!
about 2 months ago
- 


Joanne Fernandez Docena
I am a disabled woman that has lived in Oakland my entire life. I have health issues and it *is* my *reality*. This being said, it *could* increase the *quality of my life* and the *life of my dog* to have access to an off leash dog park here in Oakland, instead of having to travel around out of my city ... Please proceed in making the off leash, fenced in dog park. It is way over due....
about 2 months ago · Unlike


You and Wayne Walker like this.
- 


Susanna Gordon
Oh how I wish there was a dog park by Lake Merritt. We'd use it all the time! Hope this effort is successful
about 3 months ago
- 

Margaret Laws
My family definitely a supporter of the Lake Merritt Dog Park. We need it and it is long overdue for Oakland residents living around Lake Merritt to have access to a park for our pets to play in safely and legally. I am creating a simple hand out I can give to other dog owner's I encounter in the area to make sure they are aware of the situation and request them to offer any help they can.
about 4 months ago

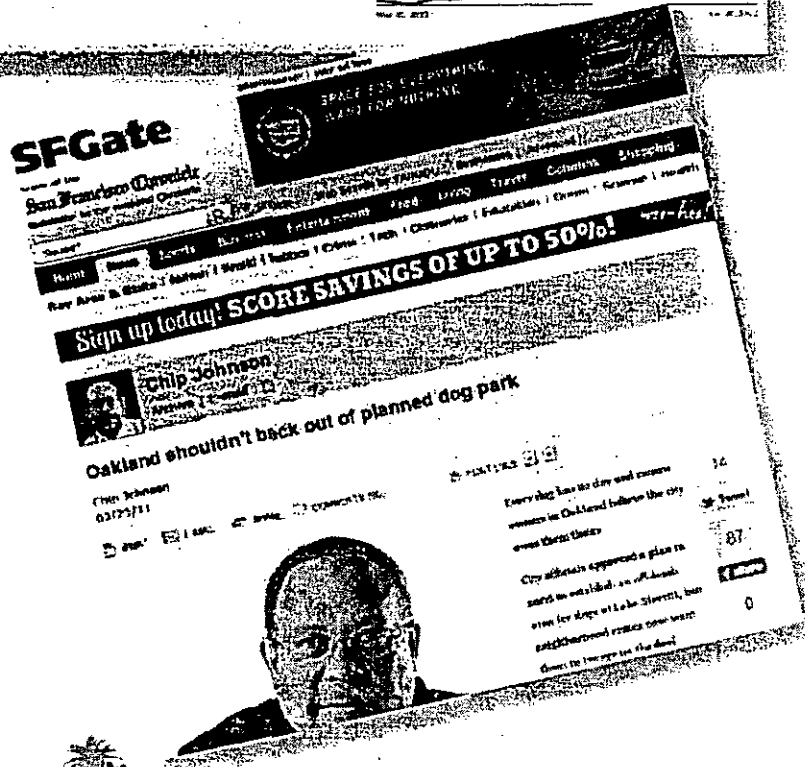
Michelle Pearce likes this!
- 

Ellen Gieson
Time to get me Lake Merritt Dog Park built!
about 4 months ago
- 

Mari Kobota
MossBiu wanna play!
about 4 months ago
- 

Felix Moreau
Lake Merritt needs a dog park. Please support! A small group of people are opposing it for poor reasons, so help us have a voice.
about 5 months ago
- 

Sarah Wilhelm
This is a much needed space for dogs and their owners to enjoy our parks. If we can't walk our dogs throughout all of our parks, at least we should be able to have this one space in the neighborhood!
about 5 months ago



Local Business Supports Us

The following letter was sent to Oakland City Council member Pat Kernighan by Pamela Drake, The Executive Director of the Lakeshore Business Improvement District, which represents over 100 businesses in the Grand Lake area.

Dear Council Member Kernighan,

The Lakeshore Business Improvement District is aware of the controversy surrounding the building of a dog park just beyond the freeway from our district. Initially, we had some concerns about the park. For instance, we had wondered how the swampy land there would handle the deposits by the dogs.

We have been reassured that this piece of the field has been filled in and that wood chips would be used to prevent a return to swamp-like conditions. We also understand that dog owners will maintain the park.

We are not opposed to a well-thought-out, well-maintained dog park near our commercial district. In fact, we believe that it may turn out to be an amenity that will draw more shoppers to our district as other dog parks have done. In addition, we believe that many local dog owners will walk to the park as they now do to the market.

Our neighborhood is home to a bursting Farmers' Market and a thriving retail mix. Neighbors throng to both areas and find many of their needs met by them. We strive to provide as many of the amenities that a successful urban area can offer and envision a well-maintained dog park as one of them.

Sincerely,

Pamela Drake,
Executive Director of the Lakeshore Avenue BID



“

I ... regularly visit the Alameda Dog Park. After our visit to the park I do my shopping in Alameda. This is a twice a week practice... I would stay in Oakland after visiting the [Lakeview Dog] park to do all of my shopping.

”

Tammara K., Oakland, in a letter to the Planning Commission

Our Volunteer Programs

Paws to Prune is our very successful volunteering program! We gather to help the Lake Merritt Master Volunteers, among other projects. Once the proposed off leash area is built, we'll be maintaining the ribbon of flowering vines, new trees, and signage, and generally keeping things spic-n-span.

Additionally, we (Lakeview Park Dog Owners Group) have officially adopted Lakeview Park, in partnership with the Oakland Public Works Adopt-A-Spot program. The program "provides opportunities for everyone - individuals, families, neighborhood groups, civic organizations, employee groups and local businesses - to play active and ongoing roles in beautifying, cleaning and maintaining Oakland's neighborhoods, parks and creeks."

To celebrate our one year anniversary of Paws to Prune, we held our first Adopt-A-Spot cleanup at Lakeview Park on Earth Day 2012. We gathered five bags of trash, weeded, and swept up broken auto glass. We also involved kids from the tot lot, and gave away stuffed animals to young participants.

Finally, we also have regular fundraisers. In the past year we've had a Halloween fundraiser with a local pet store, a bake sale and dog wash at six East Bay Pet Food Express Locations, a Santa photo event with a local camera store, and a barbeque fundraiser at Joaquin Miller Park in conjunction with a local restaurant.



Paws to Prune events



"Santa Paws" fundraiser at Sarber's Camera



Volunteer scything at Paws to Prune

Volunteering Works!

The letter below was sent to ODOG by Harriet Schlader, president of the group that puts on musicals at Woodminster Theater, near the Joaquin Miller dog park. This dog park shuts down throughout the summer and fall so that Woodminster can use the space for parking. For over five years now, volunteers have cleaned and maintained the area. They also break down and set up the fences as needed. We've also received letters of praise for the park's cleanliness from Public Works.

March 20, 2011

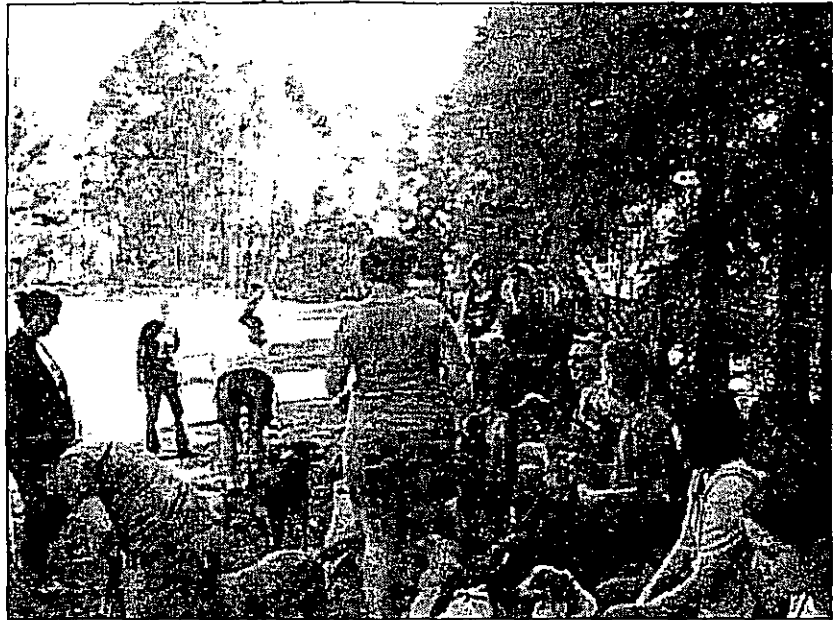
To Whom It May Concern:

The dog parks in Joaquin Miller Park have been kept clean and odorless by the users. The parks are located in parking lots which are used by patrons attending the Woodminster Summer Musical performances each summer. Our initial concern was that careless dog owners would not clean up after their dogs.

If that has happened, it has not been brought to my attention. The users have been responsible and cooperative people.

Sincerely,

Harriet Schlader/President PAI



Joaquin Miller BBQ Fundraiser
with Monaghan's-on-the-Hill

“ I’ve been to a lot of dog parks around the country, and this is the single prettiest location I’ve ever seen. ”

Sean M., Oakland, CA on the Joaquin Miller Dog Park, via Yelp.com

Dog Parks and Children

MYTH: It is bad to have dogs and children at the same park.

REALITY:

- Most kids love to see dogs.
- Recent research in England monitored 2000 children aged nine and ten from 78 schools in London, Birmingham and Leicester. 202 of these children owned dogs. Results showed that the children from dog-owning families spent more time in light or moderate to vigorous physical activity and recorded higher levels of activity counts per minute and steps per day, than did children without dogs.
- Parents will have a choice about whether their kids interact with dogs.
- The dog park is fenced, no one has to go there unless they want to.
- The dog park is a full 25 feet away from the tot lot.
- The tot lot in Rockridge was built after the dog park and is just NINE feet from the dog park. Everyone gets along just fine, and has done so for 20 years.
- There is a long, proven history of dogs being good for kids to interact with.
- There are hundreds of dog parks across the nation with similar fences and no significant number of incidents of dogs getting loose or climbing over fences.
- If there is a rare child that is that afraid of dogs, there's three other spots within easy walking distance for kids, and a total of 12 in the neighborhood
- Having a place to legally take your dog will decrease the number of dog-child interactions that currently happen daily at the tot lot.





“

[Hardy Park] works fine. The more dog parks and tot lots the better. We also go to Astro Park a lot and think a dog park would be fine; there is plenty of room.

”

David F., Oakland, CA via interview at Hardy Park

Dog Parks and the Elderly or Disabled

Dogs And Pets Provide Health Benefits

by: Robert Benson

It has been proven that dog owners have lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels than non-dog owners. These factors, in turn, reduce the chance of cardiovascular diseases. In fact, just stroking a pet has long been known to reduce blood pressure. Furthermore, a study from the New York State University concluded that these benefits continue even without the pet being present!

Hospital studies have shown that senior citizens and recent post-op patients respond better to treatment and recover faster while in contact with dogs and other therapy animals. Did you know that dog owners have a greater chance to survive a serious illness than non-dog owners? In fact, a study revealed that a pet affected a person's survival rate even more than the presence or company of family members or friends!

Studies conducted at Cambridge and UCLA concluded that there is a direct correlation between pet ownership and improved overall health, which leads to fewer visits to the doctor. The Journal of American Geriatrics Society notes that pet ownership has a positive effect on a senior's physical and emotional well being. Additionally, a Medicare study of elderly patients also shows that people who own a dog have fewer doctor visits than patients who do not.

Pet owners have better emotional health and mental wellness than people who do not own a pet. Pets offer unconditional love and affection and their presence alone helps reduce loneliness. For people who are isolated, disabled or handicapped, a pet offers friendship and can even add a element of safety to their lives. Dogs are used as a form of therapy in hospices, nursing homes and as companions for the disabled and blind. In fact, there are studies that prove that people with a major illness fight the stress of having the illness better by having a dog as a pet.

There is new research that suggests that dogs may be able to detect certain types of cancer. Researchers at the Pine Street Foundation in San Anselmo, California and the Polish Academy of Sciences exposed dogs to breath samples from breast and lung cancer patients and samples from healthy people. They claim that the dogs were able to detect cancer with astonishing results and accuracy. The dogs were able to identify 99% of lung cancer breath samples (which included early stage cancer patients) as well as 88% of breast cancer samples. The study, which has been met with skepticism, will be released early in 2006 and published in the March edition of the Journal for Integrative Cancer Therapies. Experts agree that this holds promise, but must be evaluated and researched further.

As you can see pet ownership or having a dog comes with many benefits for an individual. Owning a pet encourages social interaction, reduces stress levels, boosts self-confidence and self-esteem and encourages exercise. Having a pet is a great investment, not only in the joy and pleasure that the animal brings into your life, but the many health benefits that come with the territory!



“

*I am a disabled woman ...
I have health issues and it
limits my mobility. It would
increase the quality of my
life and the life of my dog to
have access to an off-leash
dog park here in Oakland,
instead of having to travel
around out of my city.*

Joanne D., Oakland, CA via
Facebook



”

Dog Parks Reduce Crime

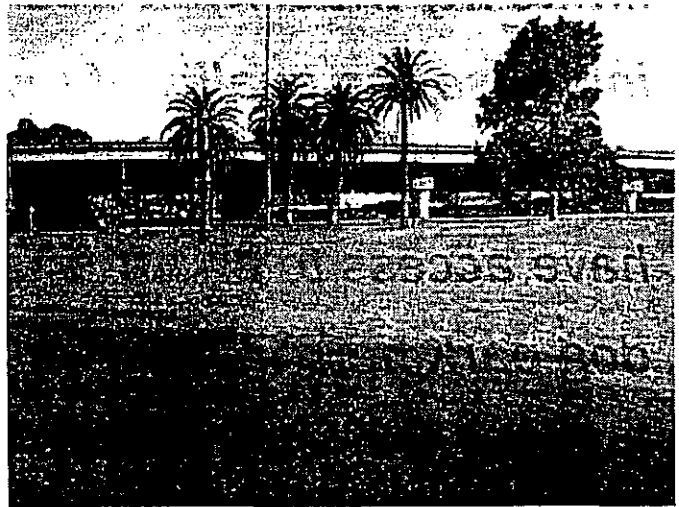
According to Crimespotters, crime in the area around Lakeview Park is moderate. Not long ago, there were three strong arm robberies during daylight hours within walking distance. Police departments across the country (and globe); are recognizing that taking a mostly unused spot and turning it into a dog park decreases crime, simply because people are using the space, and walking to and from it. Safety in numbers, and more eyes on the street.

Washington, DC: [Washington Post blogger Ezra Klein] explain[s] that the park he's referencing might actually work because a dog park, playground, etc. will create a place people will use and that alone deters crime."

Boston, MA: "It's an effective tool," said Boston police Superintendent William B. Evans, who heads the department's bureau of field services. "People with dogs who are out in the neighborhood – that's more eyes and ears for us."

Gahanna, OH: Deputy Chief of Police Ken Bell says dog owners at their dog park have been instrumental in curbing crime, "I think it's just strength in numbers. A number of people down there with their dogs, and there's a tendency to keep away that criminal element."

England: "Scheme organisers are hoping that as more people are out and about potential criminals will be deterred from committing a crime as they will be less likely to break into a house or car if someone is walking past."



“ *People with dogs who are out in the neighborhood – that's more eyes and ears for us.* ”

Boston Police Superintendent William B. Evans



“ I really want the park as a woman, frequently walking the lake, and by the proposed park, I wish there was a critical mass of dog owners frequenting the park and making the whole area safer and more populated, especially after dark! ”

Kirsten C., via letter to the Planning Commission

Dog Parks and Property Values

Real Estate agents across the country tout dog parks as a local amenity when selling homes, because they know it increases a neighborhood's walkability score, and it's attractiveness to potential buyers. This blog below was written by Lucy Armentrout, a local East Bay realtor, who highlights the dog parks in other areas of Oakland.

BUILDING COMMUNITY, ONE HOME AT A TIME

Fine East Bay Homes

CES CONTACT AT HOME BY THE BAY ~ BLOG

12
2011

It's a Dog's Life – Dog Parks by the Bay

After last week's posing on a dog to find a dog, it only makes sense to move on to the all-important dog park. The dog park as a amenity in many communities. It's a place to meet your neighbors and keep up on local news (yes – and gossip). More importantly, it's a space where your beloved man can safely hang out, race around with pals, sniff new people, drool, explore, tail wag and generally enjoy life as only dogs know how. Dog parks are pretty happy places, and also provide your dog an opportunity for important social interaction that he or she may not get in his or her own yard. So where CAN you and your canine go to get some fresh air and maybe some off-leash play time?

For those of you who haven't yet sniffed out all of our local dog parks, here's a list of Oakland dog parks compiled by ODOG, the Oakland Dog Owners Group. Oakland Dog Parks. ODOG has also included some dog park rules worth checking out, on its website.

There are also some fantastic trails for dogs to walk up in the Oakland hills parks, accessible in various spots along Skyline Boulevard (although you should be sure to check leash rules in these parks), and there are a few regional dog parks every dog owner should know about. The primary ones are listed in ODOG's list of Other Off-Leash Spots.

I currently live in a dog-less household, but have been known to hang out admiring other peoples' dogs and dreaming of adopting one of my own. (My cat is going to voice strong objections when that day comes.) Until then, I'll keep an eye out for you and your Fido, Lucinda, Cleo, Asta, Toto, Castor or Toby at one of the local dog parks.

LUCY ARMENTROUT

914.342.5450

Take Action



While I do not have a dog myself, I strongly support the ... dog park near Lake Merritt. I live and own an apartment building near the lake, and feel that this will be very beneficial to the growth of the area and Oakland in general.

Eric H., Oakland, via letter to the Planning Commission

Dog Parks Build Community



Still from the hit movie *Must Love Dogs*, starring John Cusack and Diane Lane about a couple who meet at a dog park.

At a recent gathering of our volunteers, we were bantering about 1920s café society. Back then, community was forged in coffee shops. It wasn't unusual for a wealthy industrialist to strike up a conversation with an unemployed poet. Nowadays, everyone at Starbucks is too engrossed in their iPhones for casual conversation. Or, too suspicious of a stranger talking to you at a café. One woman who spoke at the March 23rd meeting said she'd moved to the Lake Merritt area a year prior and hadn't met any of her neighbors, and hadn't made any new friends in the area.

We couldn't help but notice the similarities between café society and the interaction we've seen at dog parks. Where else can you chat with complete strangers without feeling awkward or creepy? Mothers certainly get to socialize at children's play areas. But what if you don't have kids? increasingly, people are turning to dog parks to forge a community, make friends, and socialize. Even the Catholic Church is getting in on the act.

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has partnered with the Downtown Center Business Improvement District to put on Dog Day Afternoons, where people and their dogs can meet and socialize.

"The purpose of this is to create community," explained Monsignor Kevin Kostelnik, co-sponsor of the event along with Joaquin, his black Labrador retriever. "It's to allow residents, the humans, to get to meet one another because the animals are one part of God's creation that brings everybody together. And I thought, you know, we've got a beautiful space here in downtown, and there's a great necessity for dog parks downtown. So this was a great space I thought we could gather downtown residents and their pets."

Hal Bastian, the director of the business improvement district said, "this is all about creating community, because downtown isn't a place. It's 15 different neighborhoods. And even those of us who live in a building, we never see each other 'cause we're working and out and about."

Dog parks are a great social equalizer: rich and poor, old and young, black and white, gay and straight. All gathering there have one obvious thing in common from the get-go, and conversation is not only easy but expected. Bonds are formed. Friendships are made.

"Dogs facilitate friendly interactions among people, as they so actively solicit play and offer greetings. Establishing a dog park creates a community center of activity where friends and neighbors gather to relax," said Dr. Lynette Hart, director of the Center for Animals in Society at U.C. Davis.



“ Although neither my husband or I had our own dogs, we got married at the Point Isabel dog park ... because, as David told me early on in our courtship, you can’t be there and not be happy. ”

Rita H., Oakland, via letter to the
Planning Commission

Design of the Dog Park

Much has been said lately about how terrible the park could be. We have to say that's not true. Dog parks don't have to be ugly. Our architect has worked very hard to make this dog park a place Oakland can be proud of. This is the ONLY off-leash location anywhere near Lake Merritt that will be allowed by the city. It is on a busy corner, next to a freeway. Far enough away from residents, but close enough to walk to. Residents in this area of Oakland are lucky enough to live in a location with a walkability rating score of over 85. People walk here and this is the location the city has deemed appropriate.

Where Is the proposed Dog Park?

Lakeview Dog Play Area is to be on the corner of Lakeshore Ave. and MacArthur Blvd. Across from the freeway and 25 feet from the children's play area. It will take up about 23% of the area located from Lakeview Library to MacArthur Blvd, sandwiched between Grand Ave. and Lakeshore Ave. The dog park will consist of two parks. One for small dogs and one for large dogs.

Fencing

A 4 foot high fence will surround both dog areas. Black iron, so that it is least visible, will be similar to the fence recently installed on Lakeside Drive by the Essex Building. The dog park will use the city's pre-contracted services to install fencing. A double gate entry for both small large dog entries. The small dog fence is 25 feet away from the children's play area.

The Green Stuff

Two types of vines will cover the fencing. The vines will flower at different times of the year, in order to have flowering foliage throughout the year. In addition, new trees will be planted along MacArthur Blvd.

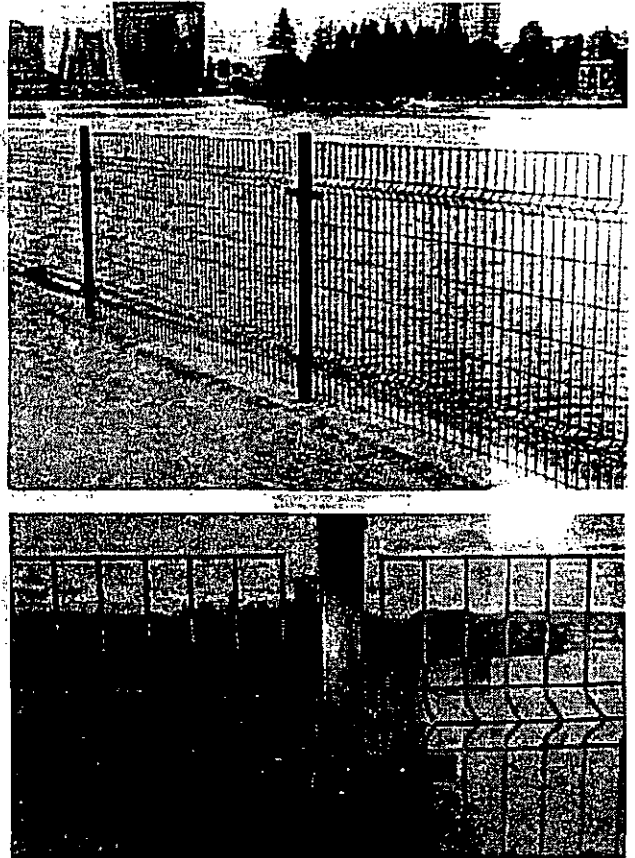
What Is the dog park surface?

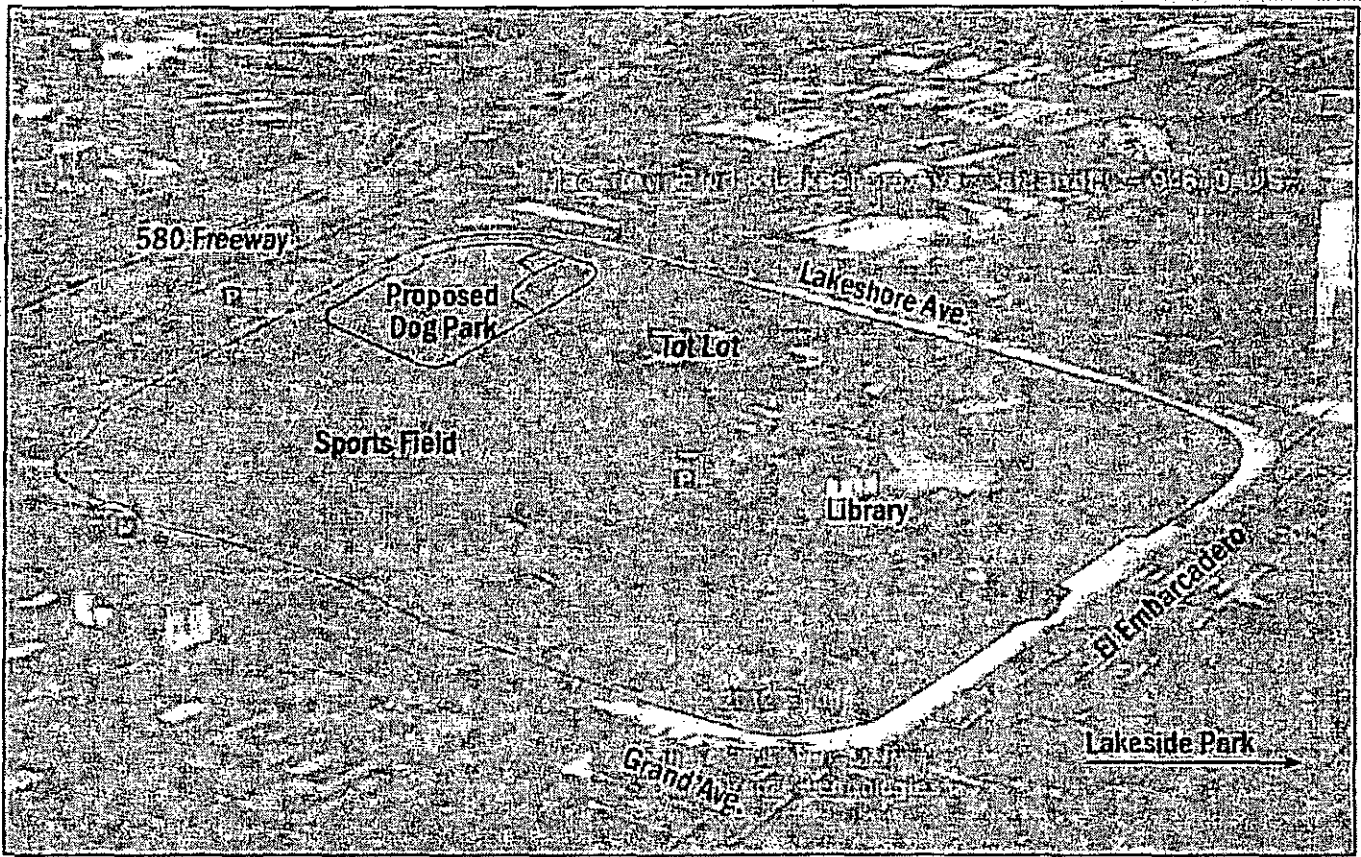
The proposed surface is wood chips which are less expensive to maintain than grass. The City and/or private tree contractors will provide new wood chips from tree trimmings as needed. Wood chips are a recycled product that's more eco-friendly and requires much less maintenance than grass, which needs watering and mowing.

The Poop

There is a wonderful new kind of garbage can that has virtually eliminated odors at other Oakland dog parks. It sets the can below ground where the waste stays cool and odor free. This has been proven at Joaquin Miller Dog Park where patrons of the Woodminster Theater walk by the dog park garbage cans and have never had complaints. **LOW COST MAINTENANCE** – Uses DPW-approved low cost waste system and maintenance 6-8 times a year; wood chips are free.

Also, peer pressure keeps the dog parks clean. Maintenance will follow the highly successful plan at Oakland's other dog parks. Users are responsible for all clean up of dog waste. Under a new plan called "Community Care Parks" created by ODOG with Public Works, users have ongoing responsibility for plant care, keeping the surface tidy, minor graffiti and other low impact maintenance such as litter within the enclosure. In addition, dog park users will follow the model of the Lakeview Park parents group and have periodic clean up days. (See Our Volunteer Programs, page 8).





Artist rendering of what the flowering vines will look like, from the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur

Dog Parks in Other Cities

One thing we get asked a lot is what other cities do about providing equitable spaces for their people with dogs. One man asked, "would Paris put a dog park at the Eiffel Tower?" Well, yes, they did! Champ de Mars, the park at the Eiffel Tower is available to off-leash dogs. So, too is the Jardins des Tuileries next to the Louvre. The exquisite gardens next to the French Senate building (the Jardins du Luxembourg) also dog-friendly. Parisians love their dogs and the French capital is amazingly welcoming to them and their owners.

San Francisco's Golden Gate Park has four designated dog areas (including as you first enter the park from the Haight at Stanyan Street). There are 17 spots across San Francisco. New York's Central Park has 23, and Manhattan has dozens more.

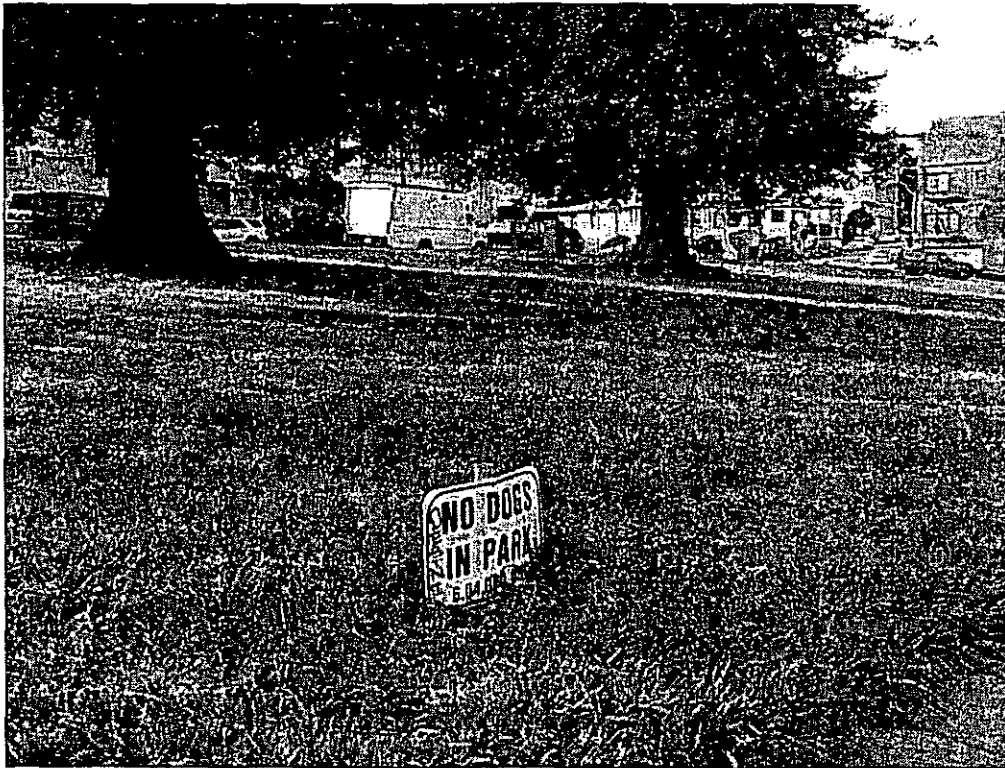
Indeed, just about every major city in North America has a "signature" park - and almost all of them include space for dogs. Even America's first public park, Boston Common, has a dog park. Boston Common is often described as the "beating heart of Boston," and is less than one-third the size of the parkland available at Lake Merritt.

Other famous world signature parks with space for dogs: Grant Park in Chicago, Stanley Park in Vancouver, Hyde Park in London, Berlin's Tiergarten, Griffith Park in Los Angeles, and Balboa Park in San Diego. So, this notion that world-class cities would never have dogs near their special parks or "front yards" is not supported by the facts.



My family just relocated to Oakland from San Diego. San Diego is FULL of dog parks and beaches and I was shocked to find out [how] UNfriendly our new city is to pooches. I am a parent to a 2 year old and a 5 year old and we love dogs! I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt.

Elise P., Oakland, via letter to the Planning Commission



Many people new to Oakland are shocked at the ubiquity of these signs all around town.

it's **Fair** to
Share!



<http://lakeviewdog.wordpress.com/>
<http://www.facebook.com/LakeviewDog>

FULL PUBLIC PROCESS

History and Public Meetings

Enabling Land Use Plans Followed Meetings

Media Coverage of Public Meetings

History of Lake Merritt Dog Park

- 1998** Proposal is made to develop the neglected Splash Pad, east of the freeway, area by installing a dog park
- North Lake Neighborhood Group (NLNG) identifies a dog park as an unmet community need.
- 1999** More than 700 signatures are collected in support of a dog park at Splash Pad by NLNG and Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG).
- 1998-2002**
- Green Link Coalition holds public meetings at which multiple requests for a dog park are made and documented in the Adams Point Plan approved by City Council in December 2002.
 - Oakland landscape architect Walter Hood facilitates public meetings which identify a desire for a dog park in the neighborhood.
 - Public meetings of neighborhood groups, including Adams Point and Grand Lake Neighbors, place the vision for a dog park on their agendas.
 - A group of neighbors organize to defeat the dog park at Splash Pad
 - Dog owners are told to find a place on the other side of the freeway
 - Dog owners meet with City staff who tell them the only place they may attempt to develop the dog park is at Lakeview Park. All areas around Lake Merritt are reported to be off limits.
- 2001** Council Member Nadel meets with North Lake Neighborhood Group to discuss dog park proposal for Lakeview Park.
- 2002** Lake Merritt Master Plan approved by City Council July 2002. Plan includes a dog park along MacArthur at the current proposed site.
- Adams Point Neighborhood Plan, approved by City Council 2002 includes a dog park at the corner of Lakeshore Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard.
- 2001-2004** Council Member Nadel meets with ODOG.
- North Lake Neighborhood Group holds public meetings to discuss the development of the dog park.
- 2004** Council Member Henry Chang and Council Member Danny Wan hold public meetings about dog park at Lakeview and other places in Oakland.
- Council Member Chang allocates \$20,000 to building a dog park at Lake Merritt. However, the City does not have the capacity to build it in time to accept Council Member Chang's funds, which instead are used to create the dog park at Joaquin Miller which was completed in late 2006.

- 2005-2006** Neighborhood meetings present dog park plans and solicit community input; this input is incorporated into the design of a the Lakeview dog run..
- 2006** The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) votes at July PRAC meeting to approve construction of a dog play area at Lakeview Park with a one year probationary period. No Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application is filed and no dog park is built.
- 2009** Dog park plans are simplified by agreement with the Department of Public Works (DPW, Oakland Parks and Recreation (OPR) and ODOG. Multiple meetings with DPW, OPR and the dog owners
- Dog park is presented at Adams Point Action Council and receives approval.
- 2010** Dog park is presented at Grand Lake Neighborhood Group for informational purposes.
- December---PRAC unanimously votes to approve a Lakeview dog park at its December meeting.
- 2011** January---Dog park presented at Lake Neighbors group for informational purposes.
- OPR, CM Nadel's staff and ODOG meet to coordinate submission of application for dog park to the Planning Department.
- March---May Emerging opposition to dog park halts progress and stakeholders meet to reconsider the issues. CM Nadel and CM Kernighan hold a public meeting to discuss the dog park at the Lake. The meeting is not part of any formal process and is for information only.
- July PRAC reviews dog park proposal from December 2010 and votes on whether to recommend approval to Planning Department. The vote is tied and no recommendation is made. Opponents to the dog park presented a proposal for putting a dog park near Fairyland. Competing proposal created confusion for the commissioners and the public. Confusion started with names of the parks. Lakeside (Fairyland Area) Lakeview (Lakeshore and MacArthur). New commissioners who had not visited both sites were particularly at a disadvantage in the discussion and vote.
- August Fairyland Board calls a special public meeting to review the proposal for the dog park near Fairyland. The Board votes to not support any future development of a dog park at this location.



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Oakland Tribune, The (CA)

Lake Merritt plan wins approval

July 10, 2002

Section: Local

Kristin Bender, Staff Writer

OAKLAND -- A plan to polish the city's crown jewel -- Lake Merritt Park -- recched an enthusiastic nod of approval Tuesday from a City Council subcommittee.

In the works for years, the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan aims to improve the lake's ecology, shore up deteriorating drains, dams, paths and retaining walls and improve recreational and educational opportunities.

It also makes the park's features more accessible to the public and lays out gateways to the lake from neighborhoods, business districts and shopping areas.

The Life Enrichment Committee unanimously approved the plan Tuesday, paving the way for the full City Council to give it a green light down the road.

"I think we have something here in Oakland that really helps with quality of life," said Councilmember Henry Chang Jr. (At Large). "We have to work very hard to make sure we have money to do this. I think we have a really good chance to make this a reality. I think we can really move this (along) in the next few years."

The City Council was also set to vote Tuesday night on placing a \$198.3 million bond measure for park improvements on the ballot this November. Although the bond does not cover all the improvements called for in the Master Plan, it does earmark \$90 million for direct improvements to the lake and surrounding parkland and streets.

The remainder of the bond will be spent to improve access to the Lake Merritt channel, build trails along the Oakland Estuary from Jack London Square to the airport, restore creeks and improve other recreational facilities in the city.

No one doubts that Lake Merritt Park needs work. Decades of constant use -- 80 percent of Oaklanders use the park and wildlife refuge at least once a year according to one city official --

and deferred maintenance has left the park's paths damaged, the water stinky and the facilities in need of upgrades.

"I've walked around the lake for years, and the smell and the din and the water is just getting worse and worse," said Councilmember Jane Brunner (North Oakland). "I know there are some concerns (about the plan) but I think we are lucky that it's gotten this far."

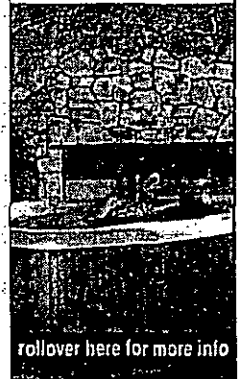
Six people spoke to the council committee about the plan Tuesday and all but one lauded the plan.



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Oakland Tribune, The (CA)

Dogs to have their own park

November 24, 2003

Section: More Local News

Laura Casey, STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND -- There will be room for barking, slobbering and tail wagging near the city's new Splash Pad park, thanks to a push by some dog lovers. The new park, set to open in early 2004, will be what organizer Nancy Rieser calls a "buerdog park." It not only will be a dog run and play area, but also a butterfly garden.

"The dogs don't care, but we thought it would be nice to have a dog park in the middle of the city that would actually be beautiful, that would draw the eye, and also serve another use," Rieser said.

The park will have an enclosed play area with a pergola-style entrance. The surrounding fence will be draped with butterfly-friendly flowers, trees and bushes. Volunteers are needed to help design and plant the park.

The North Lake Neighborhood group, representing the high-density Adams Point area of the city near Lake Merritt, has been working since 1987 to find space for dogs to play, unleashed. It organized the Oakland Dog Owners group to lobby for a park.

Cinremont Avenue in North Oakland. Although dog lovers fought hard for the city to build Hardy Park, dog owners complain it is less than an acre, covered by cement

and underneath a busy freeway.

So many dog owners instead take their pets to Piedmont, which has three dog parks, Richmond's Point Isabel and other parks in the Bay Area, Rieser said.

And with them go their pocketbooks.

"We tend to compress our recreation and shopping trips," Rieser said. "We felt our shopping dollars were leaving Oakland and, frankly, we didn't feel guilty about it because the city wasn't providing us space."

Oakland Dog Owners collected 740 signatures supporting a dog run on MacArthur Boulevard between Grand and Lakeshore avenues. The city recently approved the concept and wrote the park into the Lake Merritt Master Plan.

Councilmember Nancy Nadel (West Oakland-Downtown) said she has committed \$10,000 to the project. "The park has many positives and the community is very excited about it," she said.

Rieser said the group still needs to raise money to build the park. Those interested

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Oakland Tribune, The (CA)

Meeting set to design dog park

November 4, 2005

Section:

Inside Bay Area

FROM STAFF REPORTS

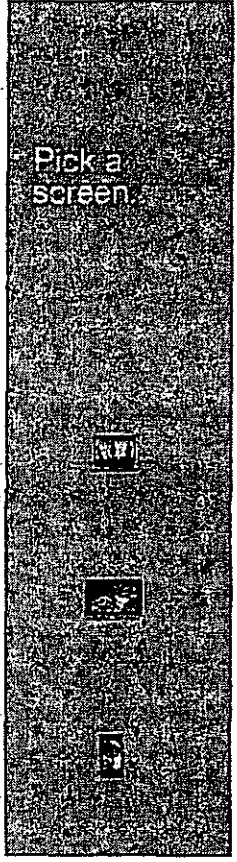
OAKLAND — After years of waiting patiently, the dogs of Oakland may finally get their day.

Councilmember Nancy Nadel (Downtown-West Oakland) is hosting a planning and design meeting for the new Lakeview Library Dog Park — or Butterdog Park, as the community has come to call it — from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday at Lakeview Branch Library, 555 El Embarcadero, between Grand and Lakeshore avenues.

The off-leash dog park will abut busy MacArthur Boulevard. Its fence will serve as a barrier between the street and the playing fields.

For more information, contact project manager Lyk Oehler, 238-3389.

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Oakland Tribune, The (CA)

Dogs finally have their day in Oakland

July 1, 2006
 Section: Local
 Momo Chang, STAFF WRITER
 Caption:

Click here to view image: EXODUS, 6, (left) a mixed breed, plays with Banjo, 1, an Australian shepherd, at the Hardy Dog Park in Oakland on Friday evening. The city recently approved another fenced-off dog play area at Joaquin Miller Park, tentatively slated to be ready by the end of summer.

OAKLAND— The city is becoming friendlier for some furry creatures, and its none too soon, Oakland dog owners say. The City Council recently approved an exception to the no-dogs policy in city parks to allow conversion of two dirt parking lots in Joaquin Miller Park into fenced-off dog play areas near the Woodminster Amphitheatre.

The plan was supported by Councilmembers Jean Quan (Montclair-Laurel) and Henry Chang Jr. (At-Large).

Of the city's 100 parks and open spaces, Hardy Dog Park in Rockridge, directly under Highway 24, currently is the only place where dogs can run around without a leash inside an enclosed fence.

Five city parks in Oakland allow dogs on leashes in restricted areas; all other parks have a no-dog policy, unless it is a service dog or one used by law enforcement.

Many dog owners say they take their dogs to Alameda, Piedmont, Richmond or to one of the East Bay Regional parks instead.

Discussion of other enclosed dog play areas are in early planning stages, including one near Lake Merritt, another near Kaiser Hospital, one in West Oakland, and another in the upper Fruitvale district.

It's unclear how many dogs are in Oakland, but 9,000 dog licenses were sold in 2005, according to Oakland Animal Services. That does not include dogs whose owners didn't need to renew licenses.

The American Veterinary Medical Association estimates that 40 percent of households in the United States are home to one or more dogs. That would put the number of dogs in Oakland at more than

60,000, because U.S. Census data estimates there are

150,000 households in Oakland. Kip Walsh, assistant director of Oakland's Office of Parks and Recreation, says she's seen the idea of fenced-off dog play areas

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Amanda Pruitt said Oakland should deal with its housing crunch, escalating homicide rate and other social ills before it asks voters to pour money into upgrading a park.

Others, however, felt the city is on the right track.

"Lake Merritt is not only Oakland's crown jewel, it is the jewel of the East Bay," said James Vann, a member of Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt, a group that is supporting the plan. Vann and others applauded the plan, but cited a few concerns.

The group wants heights of buildings next to the lake to be limited to six stories and they want the historic Fire Alarm building upgraded.

Though the Fire Alarm building is not technically part of the park, advocates believe the building should be upgraded for possible use by the city's library or as a restaurant or meeting space.

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come up more in recent years, as dog owners have lobbied for spaces.

"If (the Joaquin Miller Park dog play area) works well, it's likely that there will be more dog play areas sectioned off in some Oakland parks," said Walsh, noting they are a way for everyone to enjoy the space.

The dog run area in Joaquin Miller Park is tentatively slated to open by the end of summer. Joaquin Miller Park Dog Owner's Group will be responsible for educating owners about proper clean-up of the spaces in part of a 12-month test run to see whether the idea works.

The parking lots are close to Woodminster Amphitheatre, which has a summer festival in fall swing beginning July 7 and ending Sept. 10. The outdoor theater is also used throughout the year by other groups.

"We'll just see how it works," said Kathy Kahn of Woodminster Summer Musicals, in its 40th year. "It's a big park, and so if picnickers and showgoers can't co-exist with dog walkers, I'm sure we can reach a compromise."

Plans are already under way for other off-leash dog play areas in the city. Residents met with city representatives Thursday evening to discuss plans for a dog park at Eastshore Park — dubbed the Lakeview Dog Park — between Grand Avenue, MacArthur Boulevard and Lakeshore Avenue.

Preliminary designs for the Lakeview Dog Park include two dog play areas — one for big dogs, one for small dogs — and new floral landscaping around the perimeter.

"It can't just be a fence and dirt," said Nancy Rieser of Oakland Dog Owner's Group. "We wanted a dog park that would be beautiful from the outside, and that non-dog owners can enjoy and participate in."

Three of the proposed dog park areas fall in City Councilmember Nancy Nadel's (West Oakland-Downtown) district, including the Lakeview Dog Park. The city is also considering Mosswood Park and South Precourt Park for dog play areas, also in Nadel's district.

"As more and more of our new and longtime residents appear to be sharing their homes with dogs, it became clear that the city should adjust its parkland to accommodate this expanding new use," said Nadel. "The human exercise that accompanies dog exercise is a healthy activity we heartily support."

Nadel also recently approved, with "pay-go" discretionary funds, two bag dispensers to be added along Mandela Parkway in West Oakland, one at 8th and the other at 32nd, and a trash bin at West Grand Avenue and Mandela Parkway, which aide Marisa Arrona says will be installed soon.

Council President Ignacio De La Fuente (Oleriew-Fruitvale) has also been discussing plans with Sheffield/McKillop Road residents for a dog play area in a neighborhood park, according to aide Carlos Plazola.

Rieser, a founding member of Oakland Dog Owner's Group and an Adams Point resident, says many dog owners live in apartments and she's personally tired of bringing her dog to other cities to play.

Rieser says the discussion about a dog park near Lake Merritt began eight years ago, and construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in October.

"That's 54 years in dog years, (which) my dog would like to remind people," Rieser says about her 10-year-old miniature Australian shepherd, Cookie-Scraps.

Next steps for the Lakeview Dog Park include getting approval from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to amend the no-dogs rule, then an OK from a city committee, and final approval from the full council in the fall, Arrona said.

Find out more about Oakland Dog Owner's Group at <http://www.odogparks.org>

Contact Momo Chang at mchang@angnewspapers.com

Oakland General Plan - OSCAR Element									
17.11.060 Special Provisions for permitted and conditionally permitted activities in the OS Zone									
USE/PARK TYPE	RSP	CP	NP	AMP	PMP	LP	SU	RCA	AF
COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY CIVIC ACTIVITIES									
Athletic Fields	★	★	★				★		★
Basketball Courts	★	★	★	★		★	★		★
Boathouses	○					○	○		
Bocce Ball	★	★	★				★		
Carousels and Similar Amusement Rides	○						○		
Clubhouse, lodge, meeting hall	○	○	○				○		
Dog Play Area (fenced)									
Fishing Ponds	★	★	★				★		
Food Service and Other Concessions	★	★	★				★		★
Gymnasium	○	○	○				○		
Handball Courts	○	○	○				○		
Horseback Riding	○						○	○	
Horseshoe Pit	★	★	★	★			★		
Lawn Bowling	★	★	★				★		
Miniature Golf	○	○					○		
Picnic Areas	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	○	★
Playgrounds/Tot Lots/Children's Play Equipmetn (more than 1,000 square feet)	★	★	★	○		★	★		★
Playgrounds/Tot Lots/Children's Play Equipmetn (more than 1,000 square feet)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Recreation Center	○	○	○				○		
Legend: ○ = Major Conditional Use Permit Required; ★ = Minor Conditional Use Permit Required									
RSP (Region Serving Park); CP (Community Park); NP (Neighborhood Park); AMP (Active Mini Park);									
PMP (Passive Mini Park); LP (Linear Park); SU (Special Use Park); RCA (Resource Conservation Area)									
AF (Athletic Field Park)									



**LAKE MERRITT
PARK MASTER PLAN**

**City of Oakland
July 2002**

Excerpts from Chapter IV - Design Plan

A special area for dogs (per city parks rules) is identified along MacArthur Boulevard. (IV-76)

The Plan identifies a dog use area as a potential use in the park. Off-leash status should be pursuant to City regulations. Low fencing should be required to corral dogs in off-leash conditions. (IV-77)

Low fences could be used to corral activities adjacent to MacArthur Boulevard. (IV-77)

EXHIBIT E

LAKE MERRITT SYSTEMWIDE CATEGORY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT OPTIONS

Systemwide Improvements Recommended for Funding	Project Description	Project Budget	Measure DD - Lake Merritt Systemwide Budget	Recommended Funding from Measure DD		Comments
East 18th Gateway	Design and installation of gateway (streetscape) elements in the 18th Street approach including art elements, hardscape, plantings and irrigation	\$1,700,000		125,000	650,000	Funds can be leverage with Central East Oakland Redevelopment District; Funds recommended for this area
Restrooms	Improvements to existing and new facilities	\$1,630,000				
12nd Street (New) and Municipal Boathouse (Replacement)				0	450,000	Scope of work would be incorporated into 12th Street project and the Municipal Boathouse project
Garden Center				0	440,000	
Grand Total		\$ 9,265,000	6,250,000	3,350,000	2,900,000	
Unfunded Systemwide Improvements (Recommended in Lake Merritt Master Plan)	Project Description	Project Budget (Per Lake Merritt Master Plan)	Recommended Funding from Measure DD		Comments	
			Series A (03-06)	Series B (06-10)		
Lakeside Park						
Promenade Walkway	Renovation of the central park area including a mid park promenade, formalized outdoor theatre area, playground relocation, planting and irrigation	\$4,460,000		0	0	New project
McElroy Fountain	Renovation of the area including fountain, pump house, lighting, pathways, planting (reforestation) and irrigation	\$2,500,000		0	0	New Project
Lake Merritt Garden Center	New Perimeter fencing and entry gates, lighting and expanded botanical plantings	\$2,520,000		0	0	New project.
Pine Knoll	Renovation of the park including perimeter retaining wall, staircase, lighting, planting and irrigation	\$593,000		0	0	New Project
Dog Run		Unknown		0	0	New Project
Athol Park	Renovation of park including new play area, restroom, plaza, lighting, bus shelter, planting and irrigation	\$1,261,000		0	0	Further enhances East 18th gateway into Eastlake community

ADAMS POINT URBAN DESIGN PLAN



SUBMITTED TO

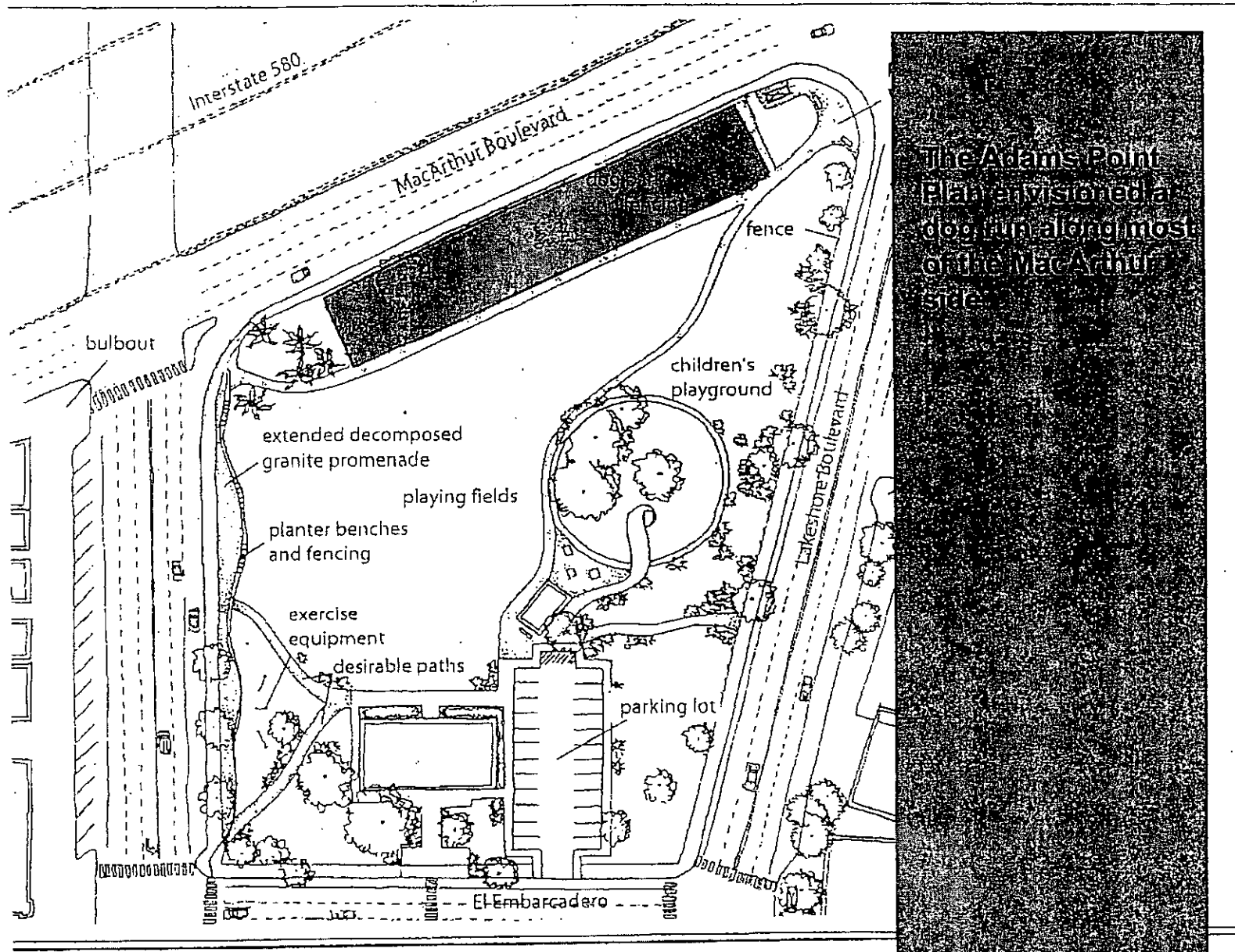
THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

CITY OF OAKLAND

DECEMBER 2002



DESIGN, COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT



The Adams Point
 Elan envisioned a
 dog run along most
 of the MacArthur
 side.

FIGURE 3-21

LIBRARY PARK RECONFIGURATION

Adams Point Urban Design Plan

Appendix D: Public Comment

- Please don't delay on the dog park! And please include the following: drinking fountain, double security gates at each end, benches, paved path to protect shoes in inclement weather.
- Dog Park is desperately needed!
- Dog Parks! We use them daily in other cities but live here!
- The dog park is a great idea and sorely needed! It will encourage sense of community, foster local spending, etc.
- A dog park nearby would be great – needs shady areas, sturdy grass so it won't deteriorate into a sandy area (like the park in Alameda and Cesar Chavez) – also if you can figure out some way for there to be a track around it with something they can chase, that would get them tired faster! We've talked about something like that amongst dog owners at Pt Isabel...
- As an Oakland resident in the Grand/Lakeshore neighborhood, my dog and I would love to have an off-leash dog park in our area. Why keep giving money to Piedmont to use their off-leash parks? Oakland could use the revenue! Designated off-leash areas keep pedestrian areas cleaner and free of waste, as well as providing a healthy outlet for our dogs.
- A dog park would be cool.
- Dog area please – just a small spot without a huge NO DOG sign.
- We would love to have a dog park!!!!
- Please give our dogs a park we find there is no place for dogs by the lake and dogs need other dogs!
- A dog park is excellent, not only for dogs but for people to socialize and feel a part of their community – Alexis Lagos Levesque
- This is the best plan yet for a dog park! Dog parks facilitate communities coming together and sharing dog-related information, and dogs in the park will help keep the undesirable element away.
- It's good to see a dog park as part of the plan. People and dogs use them.

Public Comment, Continued

- I like that the dog park can double as a long "ball barrier" for playfield. Big, lovely bushes can cover fences nicely. Having dog owners around will elevate public safety. Bad guys don't like dogs!
- The dog park rocks!
- I'm a dog owner and I vote for a dog park here so that my dog(s) and I have a place where we can play with each other and other dogs and owners. Yes! To the dog park woof woof.
- The place for dogs is long overdue.
- Oakland needs a dog park! I live in China Hill, own a giant Schnauzer and go nearly every day to the Alameda dog park at 8th and Central. I know lots and lots of the good park folds and many of them are from Oakland. Some come from East Oakland, Eastmont area, to go to the dog park. This is a lot of money that goes to Alameda. But more, dog parks are GREAT for dogs and people. Dogs learn to be good citizen, people make friends – a community develops and is enriched. The overall culture of the city of Oakland would be benefited from, perhaps, a series of small urban parks. Thank you in advance for the nice dog park.

IT'S FAIR TO SHARE PARK SPACE

Demographics--Households with Dogs

Other Cities Share Parks

Plenty of Room for Current Users at Lakeview

Nearly 40% of households in the US have one or more dogs. The numbers for California/East Bay/Oakland might be as high as 50% at the urban/suburban interface.

- From the *American Pet Products Manufacturers Association's 2009/2010 National Pet Owners Survey*:
 - Americans own approximately 77.5 million dogs
 - **Nearly 40% of U.S. households own at least one dog**
 - 67% of dog owners own one dog
 - 24% of dog owners own two dogs
 - 9% of dog owners own three or more dogs
 - On average, dog owners own 1.7 dogs
 - The proportion of male to female dogs is even
 - Nearly one in five (19%) of dogs were adopted from an animal shelter
 - 75% of owned dogs are spayed or neutered
 - On average, dog owners spend \$225 on veterinary visits (vaccine, well visits) annually
 - 62% of American households own a pet
- From the *U.S. Census Bureau, America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2010*:
 - **By comparison, only 30% of American households have a child/children under the age of 18**
- From the *American Kennel Club*:
 - 2009 Most Popular Dogs in the U.S.
 - 1. Labrador Retrievers
 - 2. German Shepherd Dogs
 - 3. Yorkshire Terriers
 - 4. Golden Retrievers
 - 5. Beagles
 - 6. Boxers
 - 7. Bulldogs
 - 8. Dachshunds
 - 9. Poodles
 - 10. Shih Tzus

RELATED LINKS:

- American Pet Products Association:
http://www.americanpetproducts.org/prcss_industrvtrends.asp
- American Kennel Club:
http://www.akc.org/reg/dogreg_stats.ctm

Even when soccer players spread out
there is still room for many other activities in the park





Dogs, kids, adults share the lawn. Notice that they have gathered at the edge of the playground and not where the dog run will be located.

Other Cities Provide Much More For Dog Owners

City	No. of Dog Parks/Off Leash Areas	Population as of 2010	City Size Square Miles	No. of people per dog park
Oakland	5	390,724	56	78,145
Berkeley	2	112,580	10	56,290
Long Beach	5	462,257	50	92,451
Portland	32	336,000		
Sacramento	9	489,888	98	54,432
San Francisco	17	805,235	47	47,367
San Jose	9	945,942	177	105,105
Vancouver	33	600,000	44	18,181

Fastest-growing urban parks are for the dogs

Dog parks where canines can romp freely without a tether are the fastest-growing segment of city parks, according to a study by the non-profit Trust for Public Land

There were 569 off-leash dog parks in the 100 largest cities in 2010, a 34% jump in five years. Parks overall increased only 3% in that time.

Portland, Ore., has the highest per capita: 5.7 dog parks for every 100,000 residents.

"There was a playground movement 100 years ago," says Peter Harnik, director of the Center for City Park Excellence at The Trust for Public Land. "In the last 15 to 20 years, it's these off-leash dog areas. There's a tremendous upsurge in demand and love for them."

The increase mirrors demographic shifts: There are now more households with dogs (43 million) than with kids (38 million).

"It's a playground for people without kids," Harnick says.

Many dog lovers have kids, of course, but in congested cities where there are large concentrations of singles and childless couples and a dearth of open space, dog parks have become the equivalent of playgrounds and community centers.

"It's socializing for both" the dogs and the owners, says Maria Goodavage, a San Francisco writer and mom (of a kid and a dog) who founded the Dog Lover's Companion series of guide books for dog owners and author of the upcoming *Soldier Dogs: Untold Stories of America's Canine Heroes*. "I met my husband in a dog area," she says.

Dog owners have become a powerful lobby, Goodavage says, because they feel that "these children of ours are furry, they have four legs but we're still paying taxes to be here and we still want our recreational needs met."

Pooch power played out in a big way last year in Tigard, Ore., a Portland suburb. The lease on a 2.6-acre area that had been the Potso Dog Park was ending and the property was in foreclosure. The Trust for Public Land stepped in and negotiated with the bank to buy the property if the city could raise the money

In 2010, in the thick of the sour economy, voters did not have much enthusiasm for a \$17 million park bond measure to protect 80 acres of open space, including the dog park. That's when dog owners jumped into action and attended City Hall meetings printed banners and circulated fliers. The measure passed.

"The constituency in the community that used the dog park was very passionate," says Owen Wozniak, with the Trust. "They turned out in force. ... If it had not been for those passionate about the dog park, it would not have passed."

Chris Garsteck, head of the Tigard Dog Park Committee and owner of a Doberman Pinscher, could not fathom losing the park, which is attracting more people on

TRUST
for
PUBLIC
LAND



Urban parks are going to the dogs.

Dog parks

Cities with the highest per capita numbers of off-leash dog parks among the nation's 100 largest cities:

City	per 100,000 residents	Number of dog parks
Portland, Ore.	5.7	22
Norfolk, Va.	5.1	12
Las Vegas	4.1	23
San Francisco	3.3	27
Arlington, Va.	3.2	7
Madison, Wis.	3	7
St. Petersburg, Fla.	2.5	6
Hondoraon, Nev.	2.3	6
Tampa	2.3	8
Albuquerque	2.3	12

Source: The Trust for Public Land

Cities with the highest per capita numbers of off-leash dog parks among the nation's 100 largest cities:

Source: The Trust for Public Land

weekdays now that many are unemployed. It has become a jobs network center of sorts, she says.

“Yes, they go there to exercise their dogs but ultimately, they form friendships,” Garsteck says. “There are 25 parks dedicated to people and three to off-leash dogs. If you don’t have a place to exercise them, what do you do?”

In Albuquerque, dog owners paid \$650 for plaques honoring their dogs — money used to pay for benches that carry the plaques, Harnik says.

The Trust for Public Land report also shows:

- Madison, Wis., has the most parks of any type than any other large city (12.7 per 10,000 residents) and more playgrounds (7).
- The only type of parks that declined are those with swimming pools.
- Two of the coldest cities, Madison and St. Paul, have the greatest per-capita number of community gardens.

By Haya El Nasser, USA TODAY Updated 12/8/2011 11:19 AM

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2011-12-07/dog-parks/51715340/1>

**IT WORKS: PROVEN SUCCESS WITH
OTHER DOG PARKS**

Public-Private Maintenance: It Works

MOU for Maintenance

Rules for Oakland Dog Parks

Compatible with Playgrounds

Best Practices At Five Other Oakland Dog Parks Will Benefit Lakeview Dog Play Area.

IT WORKS

Lakeview will benefit from	Good solutions at
Cooperation	Joaquin Miller, and all other dog parks
Cleanup campaigns	Hardy, Joaquin Miller,
Noise masked by traffic	Hardy, Jefferson, Mosswood, MLK
Parking	
Compatibiity with kids	Hardy, Jefferson
Odor Control	Magic Can at all dog parks
Double gate system	All Oakland dog parks
Rules for users	All Oakland dog parks
Maintenance agreement with users	All Oakland dog parks

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN THE
CITY OF OAKLAND, OFFICE OF PARKS AND RECREATION,
PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
AND
LAKEVIEW PARK DOG OWNER GROUP (LPDOG)

The City of Oakland, Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) and the Public Works Agency (PWA), hereinafter referred to as City, and Lakeview Park Dog Owner Group, hereinafter referred to as LPDOG, enter into an agreement on the _____ day of _____, 20012.

A. PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

1. This agreement establishes requirements, operating standards and expectations for LPDOG as well as clarifying the roles of the City in the operation of the Lakeview Dog Park.
2. The creation of the dog park is conditional upon approval by City Council to amend Municipal Code Chapter 6.04.080 A., "Dogs at large in parks", to include the Lakeview Dog Park in the exempted list of parks which allow dogs.

B. DESCRIPTION

1. The proposed Lakeview Dog Park is under the jurisdiction of the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation and is maintained by the Public Works Agency.
2. A preliminary plan of the dog park is shown as ATTACHMENT A.
3. The proposed Lakeview Dog Park is to be located adjacent to MacArthur Boulevard between Lakeshore Avenue and Grand Avenue.
4. The dog park will be enclosed by a continuous 4-foot-high fence and gates.
5. The main entrance will have a two-gate system separated by a fenced corridor to ensure the access and egress of dogs will be controlled. The gates will be self-closing.
6. Access to both entrance gates will be from the sidewalks
7. The dog park fence will be surrounded by plantings
8. The dog park will be divided into two areas; one area for large dogs and one area for small dogs. The small dog section will be reserved for the exclusive use of dogs that weigh 20 pounds or less.

C. HOURS OF OPERATION

The dog play area will be open during the same hours as Lake Merritt Park.

D. ADDITIONAL USE

1. LPDOG will have no other use of the property, except for the restricted use as a dog play area and limited to the following:
 - a. Fundraising special events to raise money for dog park area improvements and maintenance, at no charge to the City and at no charge to LPDOG. One event to raise money for Lakeview dog park may be held each quarter in the dog park without going through PRAC or other procedures. Regular special permits will be required for each event using amplified sound for music or serving alcohol.
 - b. Education and training events
 - c. LPDOG may request other days and times for special events as outlined in the OPR Park Use Fees & Guidelines for Special Events and Rules & Procedures for Granting Park Use Permits for Special Events.
2. LPDOG may install, maintain and control the use of bulletin boards, benches and plantings at the dog park in conformance with City standards and regulations.

E. REGULATIONS

1. The dog park will be operated in compliance with Municipal Code Chapter 6.04, Oakland Animal Control Regulations. Dog owners are responsible for their dogs' behavior at all times and will be solely liable in the event of aggressive behavior.
2. A complete list of dog park rules which will be posted at the dog park site is shown in ATTACHMENT B.

F. CLEANUP

Dog owners utilizing the dog park will be responsible for maintaining a clean dog play area at all times. Users will be directed to use the trash receptacles at the site, or take their waste with them when leave the park. The dog play area must be free of dog waste, litter and debris from dog owners at all times.

G. LPDOG RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Maintenance of plantings installed for the dog play area.
2. Regular monitoring to ensure that the dog play is clean at all times
3. Educating dog owners about cleaning the dog park so that the play area is free from litter, debris and dog waste.
4. Providing dog waste bags for dog owners.
5. Insuring that the surface of the dog park is smooth and free of holes greater than six (6) inches in diameter and/or depth.

H. CITY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Removal of trash in receptacles at the site.
2. Complaints
 - a. The City will determine the appropriate telephone number of OPR for concerns about the dog park. This telephone number will be incorporated as part of the signage shown in Attachment B.
 - b. If the City receives complaints, each complaint will be dated and logged.
 - c. If the City receives more than six (6) calls on the same issue within a four-hour period, OPR will investigate the complaint within the hour of the last complaint.
3. Providing Lakeview Dog Park signage
4. Removing graffiti on the dog park signs, fences and equipment.
5. Listing the dog park as a public facility on city websites including the OPR sites
6. Inviting a representative of the dog park to serve on all organizations serving this park and on all neighborhood councils and similar bodies formed or supported by the City that represent the neighborhood of this dog play area.

Volunteer Maintenance Score Card Summer 2011

August 10	Point Value	Big Park Points Earned	Small Park Points Earned	
No Dog Waste	25	25	25	
No Litter	25	25	25	
No Odor	25	25	25	
Tidy Looking	25	25	25	Initial <i>MJM</i>
TOTAL Points				

Sept 1	Point Value	Big Park Points Earned	Small Park Points Earned	
No Dog Waste	25	25	25	
No Litter	25	25	25	
No Odor	25	25	25	
Tidy Looking	25	25	25	Initial <i>MJM</i>
TOTAL Points		Signed <i>Martin Matanese</i>		

Sept 10	Point Value	Big Park Points Earned	Small Park Points Earned	
No Dog Waste	25	25	25	
No Litter	25	25	25	
No Odor	25	25	25	
Tidy Looking	25	25	25	Initial <i>MJM</i>
TOTAL Points		Signed <i>Martin Matanese</i>		



Dog Park Rules

Welcome to Lakeview Dog Play Area

Persons Entering Dog Area Do So At Own Risk

For the safety and comfort of all:

- 🐾 Always bring a plastic bag and clean up immediately
- 🐾 Limit three dogs per adult
- 🐾 Dogs must be leashed to & from fenced area (O.M.C. 3-9.09)
- 🐾 Adult handler must be in fenced area with dog at all times and keep dog in sight and maintain voice control
- 🐾 Children under 12 must be closely supervised by an adult
- 🐾 Children may not run, sit on ground, carry food, yell or use wheeled toys
- 🐾 Dogs must be licensed and have shots (O.M.C. 3-9.02)
- 🐾 No dogs under four months old and no dogs in heat
- 🐾 Dogs showing repeated aggressive behavior must be removed
- 🐾 Other park rules apply, including No Smoking



CITY OF OAKLAND
OFFICE OF PARKS & RECREATION

Tot Lot is 9 feet from dog park
at Hardy Park in Rockridge



9 Feet

Family Interviews at Astro Park Tot Lot

Name	Comments of Future Dog Park	Neighborhood	Frequency of Visits to Tot Lot
Autuk J.	Will love a dog park here if it is fenced	Stuart Street	2-5
J. Le	I'm from Seattle and I think it's a wonderful idea to introduce animals to kids.	East 15 th Street	Occasionally
Shayna C.	Would use it often	Lakeshore	2-5/week
Dineah T.	It would be nice. Lots of people here have dogs and they need somewhere to take them. My apartment is not big enough for a dog and my child is not afraid of dogs. As long as the poop is cleaned up, I am fine	Fairbanks	2-5/week
Ahmed A.	A gated dog park would be a great addition to this side of the Lake. It would be for dogs to freely play without their owners concern for them getting hit by a car	Lake Merritt	Occasionally
Adane A.	I am a civil engineer from Senegal. What can I do to help with the dog park?	15/Madison	Weekly
Noemie S.	Families with kids and dogs need a place. As long as there's a place for soccer the dog park sounds great	Oakland	2-5/week
Luke Ogado	For very five persons there are 2-3 at least who have dogs that live here around the Lake. I'd like to see dogs get their socializing and exercise as well. They need an area where they can be unleashed to run free	Euclid	Daily
A. Hassan	Nobody told me there would be a fence here but if there is, I don't see a problem. There are dogs here all the time. My kids play soccer here too. Kids have fun with the dogs.	Boden (across from the park)	Daily
Revvie	As long as there is space for the kids park, I am ok. I want the kids park fenced off too!!	Lake Merritt	Weekly
Tsesabdahan	Fine if it's fenced. My child is older. He'll like visiting the dogs	Near Grand Ave	Daily

Family Interviews at Hardy Tot Lots

Interviews were conducted about the compatibility of kids and dogs at Hardy Park/Clairemont Avenue where two playgrounds were built after the dog park was installed. The dog park is nine feet away from the barrier free playground (see photo next page).

Name	Comment	Neighborhood
David F.	This works fine. The more dog parks and tot lots the better. We also go to Astro Park a lot and think a dog park would be fine; there is plenty of room	Miles Avenue Rockridge
J. Fisher	Happy co-existence between kids and dogs. My husband helped build Frog Park- the first playground here.	Temescal
Brian L.	We've never had any problem. Everybody is very courteous. Don't see any problem with dog poop here. It works fine at Willard Park in Berkeley where there the kids and dogs play on the same lawn and there is no fence.	Rockridge
Michelle P.	The kids like to watch the dogs. The dogs like to run around. It has been neutral to positive here. The leash requirement seems to be self-enforced. We have the playground where we can avoid dogs if we want.	Rockridge
Scott Figgins	My son is somewhat shy with dogs. People have been good about using the fenced dog area . It is good to have a dog run so that people take the dogs there [instead of the grass] We use Astro Park and like the dog park plan.	Temescal
Bruce D.	Kids and dogs are fine. He usually likes to go up to people and ask to pet their dogs. When people are at the park with a [good] purpose, other people are more comfortable. Jefferson Park downtown is another place where dogs and kids are fine together.	Temescal

**CONFORMS WITH OAKLAND'S PLANS
& NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS**

Fulfills "Maintain and Enhance" Framework-
Dog-Friendly Apartments Around the Lake

The Lakeview Park Area is Defined in Oakland's Plans

As an Area to "Maintain and Enhance"

Installation of the dog run will have a low physical and visual impact while developing substantial social benefits to the community.

Sustainable development means development that maintains or enhances economic opportunity and community well-being while protecting and restoring the natural environment upon which people and economies depend. Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

A sustainable community is one that:

- Acknowledges that economic, environmental and social issues are interrelated and that these issues should be addressed "holistically."
- Recognizes the sensitive interface between the natural and built environments.
- Understands and begins to shift away from polluting and wasteful practices.
- Considers the full environmental, economic and social impacts/costs of development and community operations.
- Understands its natural, cultural, historical and human assets and resources and acts to protect and enhance them.
- Fosters multi-stakeholder collaboration and citizen participation.
- Promotes resource conservation and pollution prevention.
- Focuses on improving community health and quality of life.
- Acts to create value-added products and services in the local economy.

Source

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/sc/sust-def.cfm>

Apartments Welcoming Dog Owners in the Lake Merritt Area —partial list

1	1200 Lakeshore	1200 Lakeshore
2	901 Jefferson	Jefferson at 9th
3	Allegro	240 Third
4	Aqua Via	125 Second Street
5	Broadway Grand	438 Grand
6	Domain by Alta	Jefferson at 14th
7	East Lake Lofts	1018 4 th Avenue at 10th
8	Jackson Lake	1533 Jackson
9	Mayfair	400 Perkins
10	Regency Tower	1130 Third
11	The Bond	Jack London Square
12	The Essex	One Lakeside
13	The Grand	100 Grand Avenue
14	Uptown	500 William Street

Benefits

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Benefit to Dog Owners /Others

Park Managers Praise Dog Parks

Reduces Retail Leakage on Grand and Lakeshore

More Than A Furry Companion: The Ripple Effect of Companion Animals on Neighborhood Interactions and Sense of Community

Animal presence can facilitate human social approach

The social lubricant effect of pets appears particularly related to the role that dogs play in enticing people outside their front door and into the surrounding neighborhood. ... Non-pet owners spontaneously identify "people walking dogs" as one of the ways in which they get to know and recognize others...

Pets as Catalysts for Reciprocity

...unsolicited comments related to pets precipitating reciprocity between neighbors. There was also spillover effect to other favor exchanges and evidence that the providing of pet related favors [walking or feeding the dog] contributes to neighborhood goodwill and trust.

Increase the likelihood of social contact

"you meet people when taking the dog for a walk, I mean people always talk to the dog and then to you—they (dogs) break the ice." (Retired person)

Serve as a conversation trigger between strangers or casual acquaintances

The social lubrication and contact derived from dog walking did not accrue only among dog owners but often extended to residents generally, including those without a dog

People walk through here all the time with their dogs and I get to know them. I've probably met hundreds of people who go through there who speak to me every morning and evening and I've made some quite good friends amongst some of them. (Retired person)

Extracted from *More Than A Furry Companion: The Ripple Effect of Companion Animals on Neighborhood Interactions and Sense of Community*, Wood et al, University of Western Australia, *Society and Animals* 15 (2007) 43-56

The Dog Park Song
Written for the Grand Opening of Joaquin Miller Dog Owner Area

1. Take me out to the dog park.
Take me out with the crowd.
Bring along treats in my doggie pack
I don't care if I never get back.

For it's bark, bark, bark with my old friends.
We run and play; it's a lark.
For it's one, two, three balls I catch
In the old dog park.

2. Take me out to the dog park.
Take me out for the day.
Unhook my leash and let me run free,
To roam & frolic & nose every tree.

Let me sniff, sniff, sniff other dogs there, Cause that's what curious canines
do.
For it's pant, drool, & romp all day long
At the old dog park.

3. Take me out to the dog park
Grab the keys and start the car
I want to be where the doggies are.

Take me out to the dog park
Let me run and play around
I want to meet every dog in town

So its black, white, or even brown
I'll play with any dog that's around
At my old dog park

Health Benefits to Dog Owners Benefit the Entire Community

Abstract

Background In general dog-owners are more physically active than non-owners, however, it is not known whether dog-ownership can influence seasonal fluctuations in physical activity. This study examines whether dog-ownership influences summer and winter patterns of neighbourhood-based walking among adults living in Calgary, Canada.

Results A total of 428 participants participated in the study, of whom 115 indicated owning dogs at the time of both surveys. Dog-owners reported more walking for recreation in their neighbourhoods than did non-owners, both in summer and in winter. Dog-owners were also more likely than non-owners to report participation in walking for recreation in their neighbourhoods, in summer as well as in winter. Dog-owners and non-owners did not differ in the amount of walking that they reported for transportation, either in summer or in winter.

Conclusions By acting as cues for physical activity, dogs may help their owners remain active across seasons. Policies and programs related to dog-ownership and dog-walking, such as dog-supportive housing and dog-supportive parks, may assist in enhancing population health by promoting physical activity.

Background Participation in regular physical activity is important for the prevention of many chronic diseases, including type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, obesity, osteoporosis, some cancers, irritable bowel syndrome, dementia and depression [1-5]. Despite these health benefits, at least 60% of the global population does not achieve the minimum recommendation of 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity daily [6].

Several quantitative studies have found that dog-owners tend to be more physically active than non-owners [11,19]; neighbourhood-based walking among adults living in highly-variable climate.

LAKESHORE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

**Po Box 16268
Oakland, CA 94610**

March 16, 2011

Council Member Kernighan
District 3
City Hall
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Council Member Kernighan,

The Lakeshore Business Improvement District is aware of the controversy surrounding the building of a dog park just beyond the freeway from our district. Initially, we had some concerns about the park. For instance, we had wondered how the swampy land there would handle the deposits by the dogs.

We have been reassured that this piece of the field has been filled in and that wood chips would be used to prevent a return to swamp-like conditions. We also understand that dog owners will maintain the park.

We are not opposed to a well-thought-out, well-maintained dog park near our commercial district. In fact, we believe that it may turn out to be an amenity that will draw more shoppers to our district as other dog parks have done. In addition, we believe that many local dog owners will walk to the park as they now do to the market.

Our neighborhood is home to a bursting Farmers' Market and a thriving retail mix. Neighbors throng to both areas and find many of their needs met by them. We strive to provide as many of the amenities that a successful urban area can offer and envision a well-maintained dog park as one of them.

Sincerely,

Pamela Drake,
Executive Director of the Lakeshore Avenue BID

Park Professionals Praise the Benefits of Dog Parks

John Etter, Parks Planning, Public Works Maintenance, Eugene, OR.

"Off-leash parks are community centers for people just as much as for canines".

Seattle Mayor, Greg Nichols Dog parks are more for people than for dogs, despite what opponents say. Dog parks attract the adult park users who vote to support parks, and are often more involved in community than other neighbors or other park users. . Relatively low construction costs and low maintenance costs yield the greatest amount of recreation opportunities for the investment. Dog parks provide outdoor exercise for parks users who might not feel safe in parks without their dogs. The daily visit to the dog park is a way for visitors to get the know more about the rest of the park and the neighborhood.

We naturally tend to assume that off-leash parks are primarily for the benefit of our beloved dogs, but experienced dog park users know better. Off-leash parks offer just as many benefits to humans as they do to dogs: both to dog guardians as well as the wider community.

"Parks have a real role in the socialization of a city. Off-leash areas really expand upon that. We also recognize that dog guardians and their pets create an atmosphere of safety in our public parks."

Martin Matarrese, City of Oakland Parkland Resources Supervisor (Joaquin Miller Park) The primary goal of having dog parks was to provide a fenced area where patrons could have their dogs off-leash. An important secondary benefit has been a substantial reduction in illegal dumping and other undesirable activities. Also, the dog park patrons do a thorough job of cleaning up after their dogs. I have never received any complaints from Woodminster Theatre patrons that any of the parking lots used as dog parks are littered or otherwise fouled on event days.

The National Parks & Recreation Service booklet, **Planning Parks for Pets** "Designating an area where dog guardians can allow their animals to run off-leash successfully remedies this problem [non-compliance with existing laws] in parks where the concept has been introduced. Violations of the leash law and subsequent public complaints have decreased; and dog guardians have a place to legally exercise their pets. Off-leash areas allow dog guardians to be law-abiding, easing the burden of enforcement on animal control officers and freeing them to do more important work, such as animal rescue and control of dangerous animals."

Dr. Lynette Hart, director of UC Davis Center for Animals in Society

"Dogs facilitate friendly interactions among people, as they so actively solicit play and offer greetings. Establishing a dog park creates a community center of activity where friends and neighbors gather to relax. Users of dog parks are self-policing so as to maintain the appealing environment. Creating dog parks is a method for more efficiently educating dog guardians and facilitating them in assuting excellent behavior with their dogs."

Ali Rutzel, the head of Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA)

"People say, 'I never knew my neighbors until I went to the dog park.' You meet all these wonderful people and the only thing that you have in common is that you have a dog and that you love dogs - you wouldn't meet these people anywhere else."

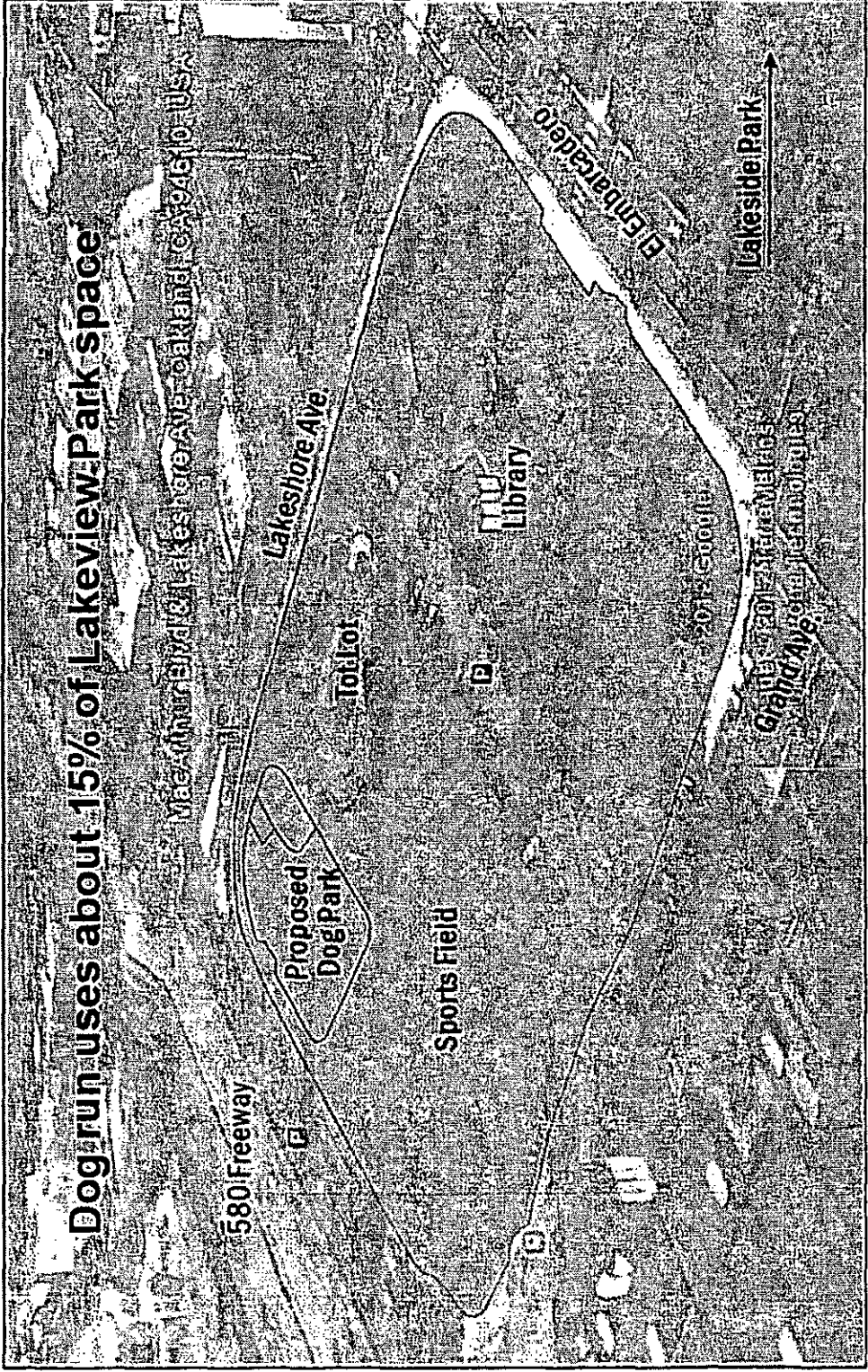
Most quotations noted at <http://www.fetchparks.org/why.html>

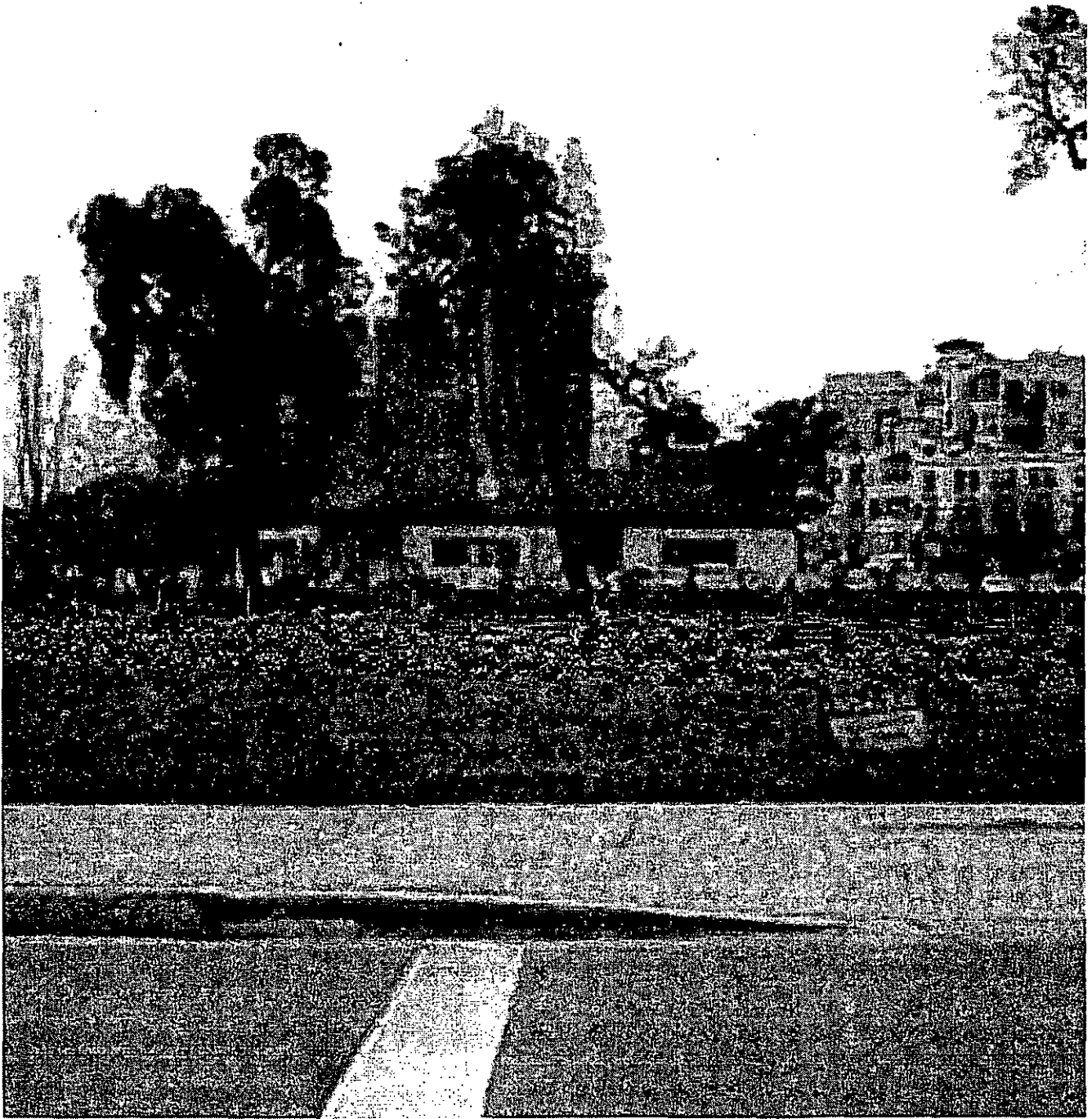
Architect
Designed

ARCHITECT DESIGNED--COMPLEMENTS PARK

Map - Scale of Dog Area to Lakeview Park
Fence Design Fits the Neighborhood

Dogrun uses about 15% of Lakeview Park space





Demonstration planting on fence shows how green the area will look with current design.



**Pian calls for low profile “Elite” fence in black.
Plantings can be placed to screen and/or
reveal the fence and activities inside the dog area.**

MAINTENANCE: STAYS CLEAN
Summary
Task Chart

Maintenance

Maintenance Program

The Lakeview Dog Park has been designed in a partnership by Oakland's Department of Public Works and the Oakland Dog Owners Group to provide a clean and healthy environment that makes few demands on city resources and benefits from volunteer commitment.

Key features

- Cooperative maintenance program with DPW and dog owners group
- MOU with city and Lakeview Dog Owners Group follows successful model at other Oakland dog parks
- Decrease in amount of grass needing to be mowed because wood chips will be used in the dog run
- Donated wood chips to meet city's quality standards
- Dog waste picked up daily by users
- Magic Can underground waste system keeps waste cool and odor free and requires less frequent pick up by city than traditional waste removal systems. Very successful in other Oakland dog parks
- Plantings specified by park staff for appearance and easy long term maintenance by volunteers
- Irrigation installed and maintained by city
- Part of Department of Public Works volunteer Adopt-A-Spot program.

Successful Maintenance Program at Joaquin Miller Dog Park- A Model for Lakeview

The Joaquin Miller Dog Park is decommissioned about a dozen times a year and becomes a parking lot for patrons of the Woodminster Amphitheater (summer musicals, Sundays in the Redwoods concerts and spring graduations).

This plan requires a pristine environment for theater patrons which the dog owners have maintained. In five years of operation there have never been complaints about noise, litter or odor at the dog park. Although there was a great deal of skepticism that a dog park could ever be cleaned up enough to be used by other park patrons, the President of the group producing the summer musicals has written a letter of praise to the dog park volunteers saying that the park is always clean and the volunteers have been easy to work with.

The success of the volunteer maintenance program is documented by letters from producer of Woodminster Summer Musicals and by park supervisor.

Maintenance Schedule at the Proposed Dog Park

Task	Frequency	City Responsibility	Users Responsibility
Dog waste pick up	Daily	NO	Yes, absolutely
Waste Can Emptied	As needed	Yes	
Fence Maintenance	As needed	Has not been needed at other Oakland dog parks	
Lawn	NA	NA	NA
Wood Chip Surface	3x year	No	Donated by The Professional Tree Care Company (see letter attached)
Graffiti Removal	As needed	Has not been needed at other dog parks. City will remove major graffiti	Minor Graffiti
Vines and Flowers	As needed	City will repair irrigation if needed	The Paw & Prune Club at Lakeview Dog Park

FINDINGS

Support Findings Based on Factual Evidence
Deny Findings Evidence Does Not Support

THE FINDINGS PROVIDED BY STAFF FOR APPROVAL ARE LEGALLY SUSTAINABLE and WOULD BE LEGALLY SUSTAINABLE; THE ONES PROVIDED FOR DENIAL ARE NOT AND COULD NOT BE LEGALLY SUSTAINED.

In order for this Planning Commission's decision to be legally sustainable, the decision must be within and not in excess of the Planning Commission's jurisdiction. (CCP Sec. 1094.5 (b)). To be within this commission's jurisdiction, this decision must be supported by the findings and the findings must be supported by the evidence or facts presented. (*Ibid.*) Under this standard, the Staff's provided Findings for Support satisfy all three requirements to be legally sustainable; the Findings for Denial, fail all three requirements. Moreover, because substantial evidence to support the Findings for Denial cannot be made, a decision for denial is legally unsupportable.

Acceptable evidence to support a finding is evidence that provides the logical step between the ultimate decision and the facts in the record. (Public Resources Code, Section 21082.2 (c)). This includes facts, reasonable assumptions predicated on those facts, and expert opinion supported by facts. (*Ibid.*) Argument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous is clearly not acceptable evidence. (Cal. Pub. Resources Code Sec. 15384 (a))

L FINDINGS IN SUPPORT OF THE GENERAL USE PERMIT TO ESTABLISH THE DOG PARK

The Applicant concurs with the Staff provided Findings in Support listed in the Staff Report. Applicant would add to Finding A that Lakeview Park is 6.7 acres, not 3.66 acres; and to Finding C. that the dog park's proximity to the parking that serves both the retail area and the dog park will bring additional shoppers to the near-by retail stores.

H. FINDINGS FOR DENIAL UNDER SECTION 17.134.050: BECAUSE THESE FINDINGS ARE BASED ON

Findings

SPECULATION, UNSUBSTANTIATED OPINION OR EVIDENCE WHICH IS CLEARLY ERRONEOUS, THEY CANNOT SUPPORT A DECISION FOR DENIAL.

A. "Livability: The evidence supporting this finding is based on erroneous facts, speculation not based on facts and unsubstantiated opinion, as follows:

- That Lakeview Park at 3.66 acres is at the smaller end of the size range (2-10 acres under OSCAR); FALSE, Lakeview Park is 6.7 acres per OSCAR and is thus in the mid-range of park size; and is one of the larger parks with the Neighborhood Park designation.
- The 20,778 square feet of enclosed dog play takes only 23% of the field bordered by Lakeshore, MacArthur, Grand and the library parking lot. . As such it is not a substantial portion of the open field. Let alone, Lakeview Park., nor is it
- Proximity to Astro Park, tot play area: The substantiated evidence based'16 years experience at Hardy Park is that dogs playing in a fenced off area in even closer proximity to a tot lot do not create any safety issues; any statement to the contrary is based on speculation, not facts. Maintenance and health related dog waste issues: The maintenance required for this proposed park is based on the proven maintenance and waste clean-up at the successful Joaquin Miller dog park; any evidence to the contrary is based upon unsubstantiated opinion.
- Fencing: The substantial evidence based on photographs in the record of the proposed fencing shows that the vine covered fencing will blend in with the green field area. Moreover, Lake Merritt now has many significant areas which are fenced off and do not impact the 'desirability' of the park, e.g.
 - o The Japanese gardens
 - o Children's Fairyland

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- o The lawn bowling area
- o The boat docks
- o The tot lot near the Nature science center
- o The geodesic domed bird enclosures by the lake
- o The fence around the duck ponds
- o The animal enclosures in the nature area and the fence that encloses the out perimeter.

- B. Location, design and site planning. The language stating that the wood chips in the dog area would adversely impact the visual impact of this high profile location is again not based on facts as the photographic evidence is that the wood chips would be camouflaged by vine covered fencing. Moreover, the Tot Lot's surface is the same wood chip material, and there are no issues regarding its adverse visual effect. The concerns regarding a supposed lack of self-policing by dog owners causing are future blight, arise out of 'what ifs'. The proven history is that this will not happen. The 12-month review in the Conditions protect against that eventuality.
- C. Enhance operation of the surrounding area, or provide an essential service to the community. The statement that because this proposal dedicates one-half an acre to a dog park use, it compromises the other current users is FALSE. First, this dog part will take only 1% of the Lake Merritt area green space. Second, evidence provided at the hearing will show that the area proposed for the dog park is the least used area in Lakeview Park. A dog park at this location was identified as an essential service/need for this area in the Specific Plan for Lake Merritt and in the Adams Point design plan.
- D. Design for this proposal conforms to all applicable Design Review Criteria. While the OSCAR stated that this area is better suited for 'active recreation', the more specific and later enacted Lake Merritt Specific Plan and Adams Point Design Plan both, after significant public input determined that this location should have a dog park.

E. Conforms in all significant respects with the Oakland Comprehensive Plan and with any other applicable plan or development control map adopted by the City Council. It is uncontroverted law the specific laws are to be granted greater weight than the general laws upon which they followed. The same is true for later enacted legislation over earlier legislation. A dog park in this area is not prohibited by General Plan or by the Oscar. However, the more specific and later enacted Lake Merritt Specific Plan and the Adams Point Urban Design Plan,--1) call for a dog park in this park running essentially the entire length of the MacArthur edge of Lakeview Park. These later enacted adopted Plans better address this finding than do the more general plans suggested in the Staff Report.

ATTACHMENT C

Public Comment Letters

Clevenger, Ann

From: Olivia Ahn [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 10:23 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Olivia Ahn

Email*: omahn@hotmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 655 12th St

: Dear Sirs and Madams:

We need this dog park! There are so many dogs in the city that desperately need this ideal space to play, run, and socialize. I'm sure I'm not the only one who thinks that the Lake Merritt dog park would only add to Lake Merritt's beautiful setting. Also:

- a) it's in the Master Plan-- **Build it Now**
- b) makes a great neighborhood meeting place
- c) makes better use of park space,
- d) it's the **ONLY** place already approved by the city
- e) it's fair to share the green space at the Lake-almost **100** acres and we're asking for a half acre here and now

It makes complete sense. Please make this happen soon!

Sincerely,

Olivia, Andrew and our dog Raven

Clevenger, Ann

From: Jason Aiken [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 16, 2012 3:49 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Jason Aiken
Sender's Email*: Jasonm.aiken@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 2635 rawson street
City of Residence*: Oakland

Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Powered by [EmailMcForm](#)

Clevenger, Arm

From: ana alvarez [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 6:01 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com;
mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy;
Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. It's because my dog's have a free space to play and run also tto socialize wiht other dog's as well as my self with other dog lover's.since I suffer from depression this help me alot.

Name*: ana alvarez

Email*: anaalvarez510@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 344 peralta st.

Zip Code: 94607

*** Text Database Entry ***

"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. It's because my dog's have a free space to play and run also tto socialize wiht other dog's as well as my self with other dog lover's.since I suffer from depression this help me alot.", "ana alvarez", "anaalvarez510@yahoo.com", "344 peralta st.", "94607"

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 4:19 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

again

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfserver/Oakland__Zoning__Information__Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Margueritte Amable [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 2:23 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Margueritte Amable

Email*: amablem@comcast.net

Street address or intersection*: Lakeshore/Brooklyn

Zip Code: 94606

Write your letter here: I live nearby and would truly enjoy having a safe place for my Service Dog to play to play off-leash I am disabled. This plan has been approved, is in the Master Plan, funds approved, etc.

I cannot believe an outspoken minority group could possibly abort such a responsible use of City funds.

As any responsible dogowner knows, we police ourselves; clean up after our dogs (and others if someone is negligent.

Spend a few hours watching how many dogs spend time at the lake; look at how many mature adults are negligent about picking up after their weekend bbq's around the lake; the number of mentally disturbed/home-less people sleep the days

and nights around the Lake.

This should be no-brainer and if not completed you should be ashamed!

Clevenger, Ann

From: Margueritte Amable [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 10:27 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Margueritte Amable

Email*: amablem@comcast.net

Street address or intersection*: Lakeshore/Brooklyn

Zip Code: 94606

: I have written previously, but after viewing the debunking video I am completely mystified and demoralized. The blatant false statements that are the product of the group and/or individuals who are in opposition to our PRE-APPROVED dog park. I remain steadfast in my support of our park, I am still disabled and I would still appreciate some common sense from you, who I pay, in view of the preposterous anti-dog park rhetoric!!

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 2:17 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfserver/Oakland_Zoning_Information_Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: angelica [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 1:00 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: angelica

Email*: oakangie@sbcgibal.net

Street address or intersection*: 89th ave Oakland, ca

Zip Code: 94621

Write your letter here: I strongly support a dog park at lake merritt. I also vote!

Clevenger, Ann

From: Jose Arredondo [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 08, 2012 8:41 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Jose Arredondo

Email*: katsi@comcast.net

Street address or intersection*: 2735 Pleasant Street

Zip Code: 94602

: As a lifelong resident of Oakland, I adopted a baby Beagle 15 years ago only to learn that I could not take her to any park in Oakland. The dog park in North Oakland was not a good dog park back then. I live near Dimond Park and even Lake Merritt was off limits. I was very disappointed, but understand that some dog owners are not responsible. For ten years I went to Point Isabel in Richmond.

My beloved pet died this past June. I hope in the near future Oakland can get a respectable dog park for the people and dog owners of our city.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:09 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: **FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park**

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: barbaree [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 11:34 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: barbaree

Email*: jernlight@aol.com

Street address or intersection*: 658 brooklyn avenue at Haddon

Zip Code: 95606

Write your letter here: There are a lot of reasons why the dog park should be built but I'm sure you've heard them. I want it, I've lived there 20 years and I'm tired of going to Alameda. The community deserves it, it's proven we cantake care of it and keep it safe for all. The spot is so rarely used for humans it's not funny. I'd like to get to know more of my neighbors. I have three dogs that NEED IT!!!

Clevenger, Ann

From: Kacie Barrett [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2012 2:43 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: This won't take much of your time.

Your Name*: Kacie Barrett

Email*: Kacieeface@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 21st and Linden

Zip Code: 94607

: Hello, I'm a full time 21-year old student living in Oakland, very close to Lake Merritt. I moved here from Michigan to attend school. Well, a little over 2 months ago, I drove to Lake Merritt with my 2 dogs, Husky and Boarder Collie, and I couldn't believe that there were signs posted around the lake prohibiting dogs, even on leashes. It's time for reconsideration on this topic. Yes, there is a child's playground close to the area. Maybe that area could be kept dog-free, while the rest of the grass area and sidewalks would serve great purpose for dog waiking. Afraid of poop being left behind? Offer a Pet Waste Disposal System every 200 feet. They don't cost much, maybe you can get a sponsorship or donations out of them. Make it beneficial for the city in numerous ways. Thank you for your time, and thank you for serving this city.

Kacie Barrett

Clevenger, Ann

From: Simon Becerra [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 8:07 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Simon Becerra

Email*: simonbecerra@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 1077 ardmere avenue

Zip Code: 94610

: We desperately need this area for our pets. So many families live in the area with dogs. We cannot exclude these families from using the park. Many older families who do not drive live in the neighborhood and it would be great if they could bring their pets out to the park to socialize and play.

Statistics show how dog parks help deter crime in the area.

Thank you,
Simon Becerra

Name

City

Address

Street

Street

Zip Code

Phone

City

State

Street

City

State

City

City

City

City

City

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 8:38 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Carol Bernau & John O'Shea [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 11:58 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Carol Bernau & John O'Shea

Email*: cbernau@sbcglobal.net

Street address or intersection*: Robinson Drive

Write your letter here: Hello, I don't live near the proposed dog park, but I have many dog-owning friends whom I visit with. A good question to ask is, What is good for the community? Here are some key points:

- Many children are afraid of dogs on leashes (they tend to be more aggressive) . With a dog park, they would have an opportunity to see dogs interact, play, etc. in a SAFE environment.
- Dog parks are a wonderful way for families and individuals to meet, socialize (along with the advantages of dogs socializing) , and form bonds.

Dog parks are a wonderful community builder.

- There is plenty of room for children to play even with a dog park - over an acre of land remains!
- Studies have shown that dog ownership benefits the dog owner; particularly the handicapped, lonely people, unhappy people, and even homeless people, let alone families! It reduces blood pressure, forms bonds, prevents loneliness, and

encourages responsibility for other lives.

There are a myriad other reasons to OK a dog park -- after all, it was originally approved in the Master Plan -- but I think we need to broaden our perspective and think of community values as a whole.

Thanks for listening.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 8:27 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Carol Bernau [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 02, 2012 9:14 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Carol Bernau

Email*: cbernau@sbcglobal.net

Street address or intersection*: Joaquin Miller Rd.

Write your letter here: Hi, I don't live nearby but often visit friends in the area. I believe having dogs and people interact in controlled, well-designed areas is highly desirable. It's much more educational for children to watch dogs playing in a dog park than to see them walked on leashes, where they are potentially more afraid or aggressive.

Also, I've found that dog parks build a community base -- leading to friendships, collaborations, conversations, etc. People bond over their pets with other people and their pets. I find it difficult to understand the opposition to this park, when it clearly is in the Oakland Master Plan and is a desirable community asset.

Thank you for listening.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Carol Bernau [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2012 11:29 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Carol Bernau

Email*: cbernau@sbcglobal.net

Street address or intersection*: Robinson Drive/Joaquin Miller

Zip Code: 94602

: I am privileged to live near a dog park at J.M. Park. I believe all residents of Oakland --and their best friends--dogs!!! should have an opportunity for fresh air and exercise in a controlled environment. Isn't it better for dogs to play in a space reserved for them, when they are off-leash and happy -- than walking on sidewalks on leashes? (Leashes makes some dogs more aggressive.)

Also, people of all ages can enjoy watching dogs socialize and play. And dog owners have an opportunity to socialize and meet other dog owners and even develop strong friendships. Dog parks aren't just about dogs!!!

The park around Lake Merritt has oodles of space; making some space for "just dogs" makes good sense, it is in the Oakland Master Plan, and it's high time this park were approved!

Thanks for listening.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:07 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: **FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park**

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: ART BERRY [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 9:39 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: ART BERRY

Email*: toolbox_666666@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 2633 telegraph ave #208

Zip Code: 94612

Write your letter here: please allow dogs to have a decent playspace close by. we promise as pet owners to police ourselves, be good neighbors. seems a shame that i have to drive to berkeley when i this park is allowed, i could walk or bike there.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Shira bezalel [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 21, 2012 10:11 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Shira bezalel

Email*: Shirabez@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Dimond

Zip Code: 94602

: Dear Libby Schaaf

I support the creation of a dog park at Lakeshore and MacArthur. It is already in the master plan and will add value to the lake area. Please consider the needs of all Oakland residents. It is most appreciated. Thank you, Shira Bezalel

Clevenger, Ann

From: Kellie Bindel [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:29 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Kellie Bindel

Email*: Kelliemed@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Laurel

Zip Code: 94602

: Dear Ms Schaaf

We have a dog and a toddler. A dog park at Lakeview would serve us well. we could save time and money by taking our family to the park in Oakland instead of driving to alameda. We want to gosome place green and sunny in oakland just like every young family does. Thank you.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Catherine Bissett [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 8:15 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Catherine Bissett

Email*: Cmbissett@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Edwards & 580

Zip Code: 94605

Clevenger, Ann

From: Jennifer Black [burst@emailmeform.com]

Sent: Friday, June 08, 2012 8:03 PM

To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kemighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy

Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Jemifer Black

**Sender's
Email*:** jenniblack@gmail.com

**Sender's
Address*:** 525 Mandana Blvd, Apt 312

**City of
Residence*:** Oakland

Message*:

Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Powered by [EmailMeForm](#)

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 8:27 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Martha Bureau [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 02, 2012 8:54 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Martha Bureau

Email*: Mebureau@aol.com

Street address or intersection*: Wildwood Ave and Palm Drive

Write your letter here: I live nearby the park and walk by there almost everyday. It is truly a great meeting place, and it's great to see all using it, including dogs. What a great way to have children feel comfortable with dogs and to socialize.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Ashli Butler [burst@emailmeform.com]**Sent:** Saturday, June 02, 2012 10:32 AM**To:** odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy**Subject:** I support the Lakeview Dog Park!**Name*:** Ashli Butler**Sender's
Email*:** ashlibutler@gmail.com**Sender's
Address*:** 817 51st St Apt 2**City of
Residence*:** Oakland**Message*:**

Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Powered by [EmailMeForm](#)

Clevenger, Ann

From: Frank Castro [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2012 9:24 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Frank Castro

Email*: fjcastro@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 5256 Desmond Street

Zip Code: 94618

: Dear City Council,

Being the owner of two Golden Retrievers and a voter, I believe there is an urgent need for a nice, open air dog park in Oakland near Lake Merritt. It is in a perfect location, it allows other uses and there is nothing else like it in the area. Please make Oakland more dog friendly.

Clevenger, Ann

From: chimimimi@hotmail.com [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2012 10:28 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Mimi Chi
Sender's Email*: chimimimi@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: 1401 Jackson St., Oakland, 94612
City of Residence*: Oakland

Message*:

Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Powered by [EmailMcForm](#)

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 8:37 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Jonah Chiarenza [mailto:burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 9:01 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Jonah Chiarenza

Email*: jonahc@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 5258 Claremont Ave

Zip Code: 94618

Write your letter here: Dear Council Members:

Please examine this video showing three (3) days (including busy Earth Day weekend) of activity in the Lake View park area.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j__si0yYRWRU

This video shows that there is very little activity of any kind entering or leaving the proposed dog park area, and that plenty

of space remains in the park for all the activities currently underway.
(soccer, picnics, playing in the tot lot, etc.)

The Planning Commissioners voted against the dog park based on anecdotal evidence presented by opponents. Please make your judgement based on the facts presented by this video, and an understanding that 10 years of work by the community and City staff has gone into finding this site and designing a dog park that will fill a major gap in park amenities for the thousands of nearby, dog-loving Oakland residents.

The Planning Commissioners stated in their decisions that they were concerned that the dog park was in fact TOO SMALL because of concessions made to the design to preserve more open park space. As the plans show, the park is of a very comparable size to most of the other dog parks in Oakland, and is actually larger than several of them.

Commissioners also were concerned that the proximity of the dog park entrance to the tot lot (25 feet) was a danger to children playing there. This is baseless - there has been a swing set and play area in Hardy Park ONLY 9 FEET from the entrance to that dog park with no issues for the life span of that park.

Please make your judgement based on the facts and not on anecdotes and fears. We need your honest judgement to make this vision a reality, and make sure all constituents have a place in the heart of our community at Lake Merritt.

There is room for everyone.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jonah Chiarenza

Clevenger, Ann

From: joe contreras [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 11:57 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: joe contreras

Email*: jojosix@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 1470 Alice st #301

: I support the dog park at Lake Merritt. I have two dogs who need to run. A city as large as Oakland needs this park. I take my dogs every week to Alameda's dog park at Crown Beach and either go out to eat and or do my grocery shopping at the Lucky's in Alameda. If I had a dog park near me I wouldn't be spending my money in Alameda.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 2:18 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Kirsten Cowan [mailto:burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 4:05 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Kirsten Cowan

Email*: kirstentcm@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Lester and Hanover

Zip Code: 94606

Write your letter here: As a dog owner, it is probably clear why I would urge the city to finally go ahead and complete the long awaited dog park in the lakeshore neighborhood. But it is truly as a resident that I urge this - the empty space which will become the dog park (I always check when I drive by, usually several times a day) is unused, but it could be a vibrant hub of activity, well into the evening hours, providing a level of safety and 'eyes on the street' that can't be matched by any level of cameras, police presence, or neighborhood watch - simple activity!

In addition, like many other dog owners, I leave Oakland in order to exercise and socialize my dog, and those outings invariably include stopping for coffee, a meal, or shopping - all monies we are taking out of Oakland - even though we don't want to! While I'm socializing with dog owners in Alameda, I could be chatting with my lakeshore

neighbors:

the elderly woman on my block that I see walking her poodle, or the young couple with a baby in a stroller and a dog on a leash I pass on the lake.

This site is probably not a perfect one - but NO site will be perfect, and any proposal will bring out objections from those who dislike change or wish to maintain their personal use of a location uninterrupted by others in the community. One of the great things about this location and the plan as approved by the City and developed in concert with community groups, residents, and local business, is that it provides a 'win-win' solution, where diverse members of the community can share a park. Sharing our public spaces is a key part of successful, vibrant urban life.

Public spaces such as the location of the Lakeview Family Dog Park exist to serve all members of our community, from children and families, the disabled, the elderly, sports players, walking clubs and so on - a dog park not only benefits those of us with dogs, but brings immeasurable benefits to the entire neighborhood and Lakeshore community. I urge the City Council of Oakland to take on the challenge of change and bring this wonderful amenity into being, for the sake of all of us in Oakland!

Yours,
Kirsten Cowan

Clevenger, Ann

From: Beth Davis [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 5:38 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Beth Davis

Email*: highhopehaven@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 434 grizzly peak Blvd

Zip Code: 94708

: Having just moved here from VA one of the truly unique and wonderful things about this area is the ability for recreation that includes dogs.
This Park enables people to enjoy the outdoors and have fun with their dogs at the same time. Why not continue to share this space as there is enough room for everyone!

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 8:37 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfserver/Oakland__Zoning__Information__Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Marcel DeGross [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 4:09 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Marcel DeGross

Email*: marceld1907@sbcglobal.net

Street address or intersection*: 3562 Boston Ave. Oakland

Zip Code: 94602

: City Council,

If you want Oakland to be a world class city you have to have things like dog parks. SF has 26 dog parks, Oakland has 3 and one of those is under a freeway. It's seriously pitiful.
How come Oakland never gets it right? This shows how dysfunctional the process of government is in this city.
Get real.

Clevenger, Ann

From: dd94611@yahoo.com [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 10:09 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: David DeMello
Sender's Email*: dd94611@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 2110 Mastlands Dr.
City of Residence*: Oakland

Message*:

Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Powered by [EmailMeForm](#)

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:10 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Sarah Donovan [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 10:53 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: The Lakeview Family Dog Park is a NECESSITY

Name*: Sarah Donovan

Email*: twilight_speaks@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 1444 1st Ave.

Zip Code: 94606

Write your letter here: Hello,

I'm a resident of the Lake Merritt area and I walk by this park almost every day. In the year and a half that we've lived here, my husband and I have come to love Lake Merritt - and by extension, Oakland - and we have no intentions of ever leaving.

We also have NO intentions of ever owning a dog.

In fact, I'm not even that fond of them, and yet even I have noticed the lack of safe, available play areas for dogs in this immediate area. There is currently nowhere that people can legally take their dogs, and so they do it illegally. Around the

lake, in the market on Saturdays, in Astro Park. There are "No Dogs" signs everywhere, and yet there are dogs everywhere.

I feel - passionately - that if a safe, legal space is made available for the dogs, then the dog owners will use it. In essence, it would be keeping them from breaking the laws out of necessity. Better for the dogs, better for the dog owners, and better for people like me - who are made nervous by dogs. A designated doggy area makes Lake Merritt better for everyone, and fear of change is not reason enough to stand against it

I've heard both arguments to this issue, having spoken to both groups every Saturday, when they stake out Astro Park. I've seen the area for the park that's been taped off by the anti-dog park people, I've heard their fears, and I find their reasoning flimsy and groundless at best. The space doesn't really seem to infringe on the children's play area, and a fence would only make the presence of the dogs safer than it currently is (I've literally heard "the dogs could jump the fence and bite someone," but isn't ANY fence better than NO fence? Honestly?) . For all the heated arguments and staunch possessiveness over Astro Park that occurs on Saturdays, I rarely see anyone there the rest of the week. It is quite literally a patch of flat grass that is rarely used, next to a playground. Sure, it might be convenient to a few soccer teams every now and then, but they aren't there daily, and the dog owners - who I can only assume outnumber the soccer players - would be.

Also, I would express concerns about encouraging soccer in that currently unfenced area, ANYWAY, as it is surrounded by traffic.

It's a "needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few" situation. Right now, the dog-owners are the many, and their numbers are buffered by people like me, who have seen the situation logically, rather than with a knee-jerk reaction to any kind of alteration to the current state of the neighborhood.

Change isn't a bad thing simply because it is change, and at the end of the day, the only thing that's at all scary about a dog park in Lake Merritt is that it's different

For God's sake, let the dogs have their park. At least then it will be used and enjoyed properly. Every Saturday that the anti-dog park group feels the need to cordon off the area with tape in an attempt to make their point is another Saturday where the children and soccer players can't use the park, anyway, so apparently it must not be that big of a loss, else wouldn't the children and soccer players be upset at THEM, as well?

Thank you for hearing me out.

Sarah Donovan

Clevenger, Ann

From: Val Dover [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:08 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio;
Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert;
odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Val Dover

Email*: Tonyandval@aol.com

Street address or intersection*: Wisconsin

Zip Code: 94602

: My family would love to come to Lakeview park with our dogs and little girl. This beautiful space should be available to **ALL** of us and we will have a community representing all kinds of diversity. Thank yo. Val Dover.
district Four

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 4:02 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: **FW: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park**

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfservlet/Oakland_Zoning_Information_Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Engler [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 3:40 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Tim Engler

Email*: timengler@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 428 Alice Street #510

Zip Code: 94607

Clevenger, Ann

From: Kelsea Ernst [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:11 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Kelsea Ernst

Email*: Phi.evolutionary@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Downtown

Zip Code: 94612

: We are small business owners just starting out. Right now we have a dog not a kid. That is why we want you to approve the dog park for Lake Merritt so that we have the same access t O the park hat other Oakland residents do . Thank you.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:10 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Ellen Evans [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 11:00 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Ellen Evans

Email*: jeev13@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Delaware and Coolidge

Zip Code: 94602

Write your letter here: Hi -

This whole process has been maddening. The park has been approved for *years*. I own two dogs.

A key part of my daily social experience is taking those dogs to Hardy dog park, where I enjoy the company of other dog owners as much as my dogs enjoy the company of their dogs. But Hardy dog park is miles away from my house, which means I always have to drive, usually in rush hour, on the freeway, to get there.

I just don't understand why dog owners are always seen as the bad guys, the ones who are impinging on everyone else's rights. I don't have kids and I don't play soccer, but I am all for play areas for kids and sports fields. And both of those things are completely compatible with a dog park in the Lake Merritt location.

There's a play area *right next* to Hardy, and to my knowledge - I've been going there almost daily for over 10 years - there haven't been any issues associated with that. In fact lots of kids love to just stand just outside the fence and watch the dogs play. Why is it that something that would serve my and other dog owners social and communal needs are not only not honored but are consistently presented as somehow a threat?

Thank you for your time.

Ellen Evans

Clevenger, Ann

From: Tesha Faulkner [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 21, 2012 10:32 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Tesha Faulkner

Email*: Dreamcatcher3309@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Foothill

Zip Code: 94606

: My children and I would love to take ou dog to a safe fenced area near the tot lot. Ther is nothing safe in our neighborhood and we should be allowed a t the Lake.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 8:38 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: **FW: Please APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: fd [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 1:16 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Please add your own comments here: Dear Council Members, Please consider the facts and APPROVE the dog run at Lakeview Park so that more people can enjoy this park.

Name*: fd

Email*: cuphook@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: sdf sadfasdfsdf

Zip Code: 98551

Clevenger, Ann

From: Clevenger, Ann
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2012 10:34 AM
To: 'Traci Fellows'
Cc: 'Emily Rosenberg'
Subject: RE: Fido's Fondue to join the fight

Hi, Traci,
Okay, I'm cc'ing this reply to Emily (dogpeople@comcast.net).
Ann

From: Traci Fellows [<mailto:fidosfondue@live.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2012 10:26 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: RE: Fido's Fondue to join the fight

Hi Ann,

Please send me Emily's information. I believe we have spoken before and I haven't see her lately. Thank you so much!

Kind regards,
Traci Fellows
www.fidosfondue.com

Subject: RE: Fido's Fondue to join the fight
Date: Mon, 9 Jul 2012 10:13:33 -0700
From: AClevenger@oaklandnet.com
To: fidosfondue@live.com

Hi, Traci,

Sorry for the delayed reply – I have been out of the office since June 29th and just returned today. Based on your e-mail, it sounds like you are interested in the Lakeview Dog Park project (?) I can refer you to Emily Rosenberg at ODOG (Oakland Dog Owner's Group) if you are a supporter and want to find out how to get involved.

Let me know, and I will send her your contact information.

Ann

From: Traci Fellows [<mailto:fidosfondue@live.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:15 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Traci Fellows
Subject: RE: Fido's Fondue to join the fight

Hello!

I have finally launched my company and I'm said to say I had to bury my Valentine. It was unexpected but now I have Spencer and he is the face of the company. I am at the Grand Lake Farmers Market on Saturday's and I happen to be free this Sunday is you are free to speak. I would like to donate our grain-free organic dog biscuits to the organization as well.

11/9/2012

I can be reached at 415-852-8176. Tonight I will be at the bakery but feel free to call after 5pm tonight or tomorrow. Sunday I am available all day for the most part. I am looking forward to discussing how Fido's Fondue can get involved with this important fight!

Kind regards,
Spencer Traci
Fido's Fondue

Clevenger, Ann

From: Winnie Fink [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 1:41 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Winnie Fink

Email*: winniefink@hotmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 482 Cheney Avenue

Zip Code: 94610

: It's time to get the Lakeview dog park done. There is so very little space in Oakland that is welcome to dogs and this spot has already been approved.

As a neighborhood member, I look forward to the opportunity the park will provide to enhance my connections to others by providing a space for dog folks and their companions to connect.

It's been long enough. Let's get this done. Thank you.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Andrew Frankel [burst@emailmeform.com]

Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 1:15 PM

To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy

Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Andrew Frankel

**Sender's
Email*:** frankel.andrew@gmail.com

**Sender's
Address*:** 500 William Street

**City of
Residence*:** Oakland

Message*:

Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Legalize healthy dog play, let dogs be dogs!

Powered by [EmailMcForm](#)

Clevenger, Ann

From: Christine Garrett [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:02 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Christine Garrett

Email*: Cgarrettrun@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: West Oakland

Zip Code: 94607

: The people of Oakland need places to play with our loved ones. That includes our dogs. When my family includes children I would love to bring them to the dog park and playground.

The field is underused even on a Saturday morning. please approve the dog park now so that more people can use this park. Thank you

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 8:38 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Ellen Gierson [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 1:36 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Ellen Gierson

Email*: ellenrocs@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Opal St & 42nd Street

Zip Code: 94609

Write your letter here: It boggles the mind how many poor decisions you have made.
DOG PARKS ARE IN!
The Lake Merritt Dog Park would be such a fabulous addition to the Lake community.
Friends, there are MANY, MANY, dog owners in Oakland and guess what, WE VOTE.

I go to the Alameda Dog Paqrk EVERY DAY, and i spend lots of money there! LOTS! Oakland needs our dollars, so folks: approve/support the Lake Merritt Dog Park that has been approved by PRAC!

Ellen Gierson beat 12x NCPC

Oakland Booster
Rebecca, Jane, Jean are you listening?

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 1:45 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

In case you're not receiving

Robert.D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Ellen Gierson [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 1:36 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Ellen Gierson

Email*: ellenrocs@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Opal St & 42nd Street

Zip Code: 94609

Write your letter here: It boggles the mind how many poor decisions you have made.

DOG PARKS ARE IN!

The Lake Merritt Dog Park would be such a fabulous addition to the Lake community.
Friends, there are MANY, MANY, dog owners in Oakland and guess what, WE VOTE.

I go to the Alameda Dog Paqrk EVERY DAY, and I spend lots of money there! LOTS! Oakland needs our dollars, so folks: approve/support the Lake Merritt.Dog Park that has been approved by PRAC!

Ellen Gierson beat 12x NCPD

Oakland Booster

Rebecca, Jane, Jean are you listening?

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 4:28 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Ellen Gierson [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 4:28 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park
Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Ellen Gierson

Email*: ellenrocs@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Opal and 41 st

Zip Code: 94609

Write your letter here: The City has already approved the dog park at Lake Merritt, it is the only place that has been approved.

The dog park in this location would mak an excellent neighborhood gathering space. I live nearby and I would love to have a safe spot at the Lake to be with my dog.

It is in the Master Plan, so I expect you to nuild it NOW!

Clevenger, Ann

From: Ellen Gierson [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2012 7:00 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park-ALREADY

Your Name*: Ellen Gierson

Email*: ellenrocs@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Opal and 42 Street

Zip Code: 94609

: Dear Council members,

Why haven't you all approved a half acre space at the Lake for a Dog Park.

It is especially irritating that you

have yet to vote yes on this park that is the only place ALREADY APPROVED by the city for the dog park. It is in the Master pain and it should be built NOW. It would make such a great neighborhood meeting space and it would also make such better use of the park. Don't you think that it is about time to share the green space at Lake Merritt for dog owners? I do!

Ellen Gierson
4175 Opal Street
94609
510-593-8678

Clevenger, Ann

From: Cynthia Giuliani [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 11:11 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Cynthia Giuliani

Email*: cyndg@earthlink.net

Street address or intersection*: 389 Belmont st. #309

Zip Code: 94610

: I have lived in Oakland more than any other city in my life and it seems I've been waiting for a dog park somewhere in my neighborhood for 20 years!

I am so sick of having to put my dogs in my car and drive them to Piedmont or the hills for them to have a good off-leash romp. I frequently drive OUT of Oakland to other cities where we feel welcomed and then subsequently I spend money and shop in other towns stores!

This issue is of huge importance to me and many others in a neighborhood made up of mostly multiple unit dwellings where backyards are rare. The City Council and Planning Commission could increase the QUALITY of life for so many residents with just a stroke of a pen. Please give us a dog park!!!

Clevenger, Ann

From: Loralie Gohler [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 8:10 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Loralie Gohler

Email*: loraliepants@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 151 Lakeside Drive

Zip Code: 94612

: A dog park in the Lake Merritt area will increase property values and keep Oakland modern and attractive to potential residents. Dogs have become a very important part of many affluent people's lives. They are treated like family members, and the dog owners enjoy spending time with their animals in public places like a legal dog park. San Francisco has many dog play areas that the affluent residents enjoy with no harm done to the area or children. The neighborhoods have become safer with more people using the outdoor space, rather than let it remain a wasteland. We all know that Oakland is better than San Francisco, but there is a lack in dog play areas, which makes Oakland less appealing for the dog owner looking for housing. I know I based my home buying decision on the access to the lake, and am certain that the property values will only increase around the lake if there were more types of use offered to the residents, like a legal dog area. There are many older people in my area that have dogs and enjoy walking them as well. I am sure that the dog park would be used by these older residents, and would give them a chance to socialize with other dog owners in a secure area while they spent time with their dogs. The opposition to the dog park surprises me, since modern urban areas are built with dog play areas, and the most affluent neighborhoods have dog parks. Don't we want to be considered modern, and attract affluence? Please allow a tiny pit of land that is 99% of the time unused to be turned into an area that residents can enjoy and use.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Susanna Gordon [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 11:53 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: PLEASE APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Susanna Gordon

Email*: spgordon@earthlink.net

Street address or intersection*: Trestle Glen Rd at Creed

Zip Code: 94610

: I live a bit more than a mile east of Lakeshore. From our house, there is no dog park within walking distance. We sometimes walk our dog to Lakeshore on weekends to get coffee, but since there is no place there to play with him, we more often drive to a dog play area (usually up Joaquin Miller or over to Piedmont on Linda) and forgo doing business on Lakeshore. We would go nearly every weekend day if there were a dog play area at Lakeview, and would likely stop also for breakfast and coffee.

The half acre proposed for the Lakeview dog park is currently empty the vast majority of the time. I've been there periodically with my kids at the kid play area, and almost never see anyone using that grass area.

Please approve the Lakeview family dog park -- it will be good for the environment (reducing unnecessary driving out of the neighborhood in search of a dog play area) , good for the local economy (encouraging local dog owners to visit and shop on Lakeshore) , and good for the neighborhood (increasing use of the beautiful space and foot traffic to/from Lakeshore)

Thanks!
Susanna

Clevenger, Ann

From: Allison Gossard [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2012 11:26 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Allison Gossard

Email*: allison.gossard@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 1238 E. 33rd Street

Zip Code: 94608

: We have been waiting anxiously for the Lakeview family dog park to be built. We are a family with a 3.5 year old and a 6 year old dog. And we love to use the lake area, but really want something for the dog to do too. We would actually be able to walk to the dog park, as opposed our other dog park options which mean driving.

I think this park would really serve the community and keep our dogs a happy!

Best,
Allison

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 8:36 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911.

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/ifserver/Oakland__Zoning__Information__Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Judith Gottlieb [mailto:burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 7:53 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Judith Gottlieb

Email*: judithgottlieb94706@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 3269 Arizona St

Zip Code: 94602

: Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to encourage that you approve the dog park for Lakeview Park. There is no place that one can have dogs off leash around Lake Merrit area. I enjoy the Lake Merrit area and having a dog park would enhance my family's experience.

The dog park has been in the Master Plan for years and it makes a great neighborhood meeting place. It is the only place that has already approved by the city.

Please vote to approve the dog park so we may have more ways to enjoy the "Jewel of Oakland".

Sincerely, Judith Gottlieb

Clevenger, Ann

From: Krista Granieri [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 8:09 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Krista Granieri

Email*: kmgranieri2@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 2755 vallecito place

Zip Code: 94606

: I am strongly in favor of putting a dog park area at Lake Merritt. There is a sore lack of off-leash dogs areas in Oakland. The only areas legally allowing off-leash walking in the region are parts of the EBRP up on Skyline or the Bulb in Albany. Please, approve the dog park at Lake Merritt.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 10:15 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: angela green [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 10:13 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: angela green

Email*: lapetitefleur@juno.com

Street address or intersection*: 3930 edwards ave oakland

Zip Code: 94605

Write your letter here: I shop around the park area on grand and lakeshore.
It would mean so much
to be able to let my dog play at the dog park. It's a lovely spot and I implore you to vote yes.
angela green

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert.
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 8:36 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert.D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: angela green [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 10:02 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park I shop at trader joes and would love to take my dogs to an enclosed area to run. Please reconsider and approve this dog park. thank you

Name*: angela green

Email*: lapetitefleur@juno.com

Street address or intersection*: 3930 edwards ave oakland

Zip Code: 94605

Clevenger, Ann

From: Cherry Green [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:21 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Cherry Green

Email*: Cherrygee57@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 76 avenue

Zip Code: 94621

: Dear Mr Reid

We need your vote to approve the dog park at Lake Merritt. I have a **SERVICE DOG** And would like a place at beautiful Lake Merritt to enjoy my dog

All our neighbors use the lake Merritt parks and I would like to meet other dog people there. The park at Lakeview represents people from all over Oakland. **BUT** we dog owners are excluded. Please help us make full use of this space for families with dogs. There is still a lot of room left for our wonderful children to play here and for us to have the enclosed dog park.

Than you for your vote to APPROVE Lake Merritt dog park.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 10:43 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Haage [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 10:42 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Lisa Haage

Email*: lhaage@hotmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 5849 Colby Street

Write your letter here: To all--

I would like to urge your support for dog parks in Oakland and specifically for approval of the Lake Merrit dogpark in the upcoming vote. As you know, this is the only location already approved by the City, and this park is in the Master Plan, and has been a very long time coming. It is a vital use for city parks, and is a fair allocation of uses between "competing" interests.

I am a longtime Oakland homeowner and taxpayer, and believe that dog parks provide a critical service for Oaklanders-- they provide a place for interaction between all sorts of Oakland residents, to mix and mingle without regard to the normal categories which divide us. They allow for socialization between both dogs and people and are unique in my experience here in terms of the ability to socialize with a broad spectrum of Oakland and bay area residents. They provide a critical place to truly integrate our city.

Not only that but dog parks provide a vital place for disabled persons to enjoy the outdoors and socialize with neighbors, in a way that people without children or who don't jog or otherwise use the parks often do not have the opportunity to do. It really provides a level playing field for all parts of our society to interact

I also really believe that we need to provide services for all citizens--I don't have children but am happy to pay for schools and kid parks, but think that we should also support services for others as well. I think that the failure to do so is unequal treatment and should be discouraged.

I have been dismayed to see parks in my neighborhood put up "no dogs allowed" signs and have them enforced in an aggressive way. If this is to be the case, we need to provide other alternatives and allow an option for those who want to exercise with their dogs and need a place to do so.

It is important to have a number of dog-friendly options, especially in urban areas, so folks can walk to parks with their dogs, and not have to drive and contribute to air pollution and climate change just to get to a place to exercise with their dogs!

Many thanks for your consideration.

Lisa Haage
5849 Colby St
Oakland CA 94618

Clevenger, Ann

From: lisa haage [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2012 11:08 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: lisa haage

Email*: lhaage@hotmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Colby at Claremont

: Please approve the Lake Merritt dog park. Dog parks are a truly integrated, social place for Oaklanders to meet and mingle. They encourage a broad spectrum of citizens to get out and about, which helps the whole community, and allows for a whole other sector of Oakland citizens to use parks and open space. This is the only area which has already been approved by the city and if not approved, will deprive a large segment of Oaklanders the opportunity to use this vital resource.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 8:37 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: **FW: Please APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Evangelina Hernandez [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:17 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Evangelina Hernandez

Email*: evehdz@aol.com

Street address or intersection*: 4629 Davenport Ave

Zip Code: 94619

- Write your letter here:
- a) it's in the Master Plan-- Build it Now
 - b) makes a great neighborhood meeting place
 - c) makes better use of park space,
 - d) it's the ONLY place already approved by the city
 - e) I pay lots in taxes and vote.

My husband and I do not use schools as we have no kids. We however have pups that need and are just as entitled to have play areas as people's children. Our pups are our children.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Galen Hill [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 4:55 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Galen Hill

Email*: galen@pgadesign.com

Street address or intersection*: 444 17th Street

Zip Code: 94612

: I take my dog everywhere with me, and as a result, I have a very friendly dog. I work in different cities in the Bay Area, and of all the cities I work in, (Emeryville, San Francisco, Berkeley, Vacaville, Lafayette) , Oakland has no parks for a dog? Everywhere else they are dog friendly, but Oakland has no such accomodations? Please build a dog park for off lease dogs. Thank you.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Robin Huntington [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 9:16 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Robin Huntington

Email*: robinhuntington@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 6768 Thornhill Drive Oakland

Zip Code: 94611

: The only dog park in Oakland is under the freeway and BART. This would be a wonderful and much needed addition instead of always having to go to Berkeley or Albany or Richmond!

Please pass this!

Thanks,

Robin

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 2:18 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Marvin Ishai [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent Tuesday, June 26, 2012 5:08 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Marvin Ishai

Email*: marvinishai@earthlink.net

Street address or intersection*: Lakeshore and Brooklyn

Zip Code: 94606

Write your letter here: Please approve the Lakeview Family Dog Park.

The information circulated by the anti-dog park people is misleading and often wrong. The space allocated to the Park is wrong. No one is calling them on this and I hope that you as a council person will take the time to look at the site.

It is virtually vacant most of the week. I have many photographs to show that.

It is the least used and probably least attractive part of the Lake Merritt park as it is next to the freeway. As Naomi Smith said, "No one is ever there."

What a great place for a dog park. Using the part of the park in question would be like cutting off the crust of a piece of

bread--that's how little loss there would be."

A dog park would not only serve dogs, but the families of the dogs--including children and grandchildren. Populating the park area would discourage n'er-do-wells who hang out under the freeway and around the neighborhood.

It would encourage regular meetings of neighbors which would act to greatly enhance neighborhood safety.

It would be one of the few spaces available where anywhere near the Lake where.

the entire family --including the family dog can get together.

And, my grandson would absolutely love it!

Clevenger, Ann

From: Jose jauregui [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 21, 2012 9:52 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Jose jauregui

Email*: Magistracy11@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Adams point

Zip Code: 94610

: Why should I have to drive to alameda? The dog park would help keep the dogs where they and make better use of space

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:08 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfserver/Oakland__Zoning__Information__Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce Joffe [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 9:52 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park
Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Bruce Joffe

Email*: Bruce__Joffe@hotmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 902 Rose Ave.

Zip Code: 94611

Write your letter here: I walk my dog to Lake Merritt, exercise on the pull-up bars, then walk home. It is good exercise for both myt and my dog.

Please keep this area open for dogs as well as kids, soccer players, geese and pedestrians. We can all use this beneficial park respectfully of each other.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Eileen Jones [burst@emailmeform.com]

Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 10:05 AM

To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy

Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Eileen Jones

**Sender's
Email*:** jones.eileen15@gmail.com

**Sender's
Address*:** 125 2nd Street

**City of
Residence*:** Oakland

Message*:

Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Powered by [EmailMeForm](#)

Clevenger, Ann

From: Maryan Karwan [burst@emailmeform.com]

Sent: Saturday, June 16, 2012 5:55 PM

To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy

Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Maryan Karwan

**Sender's
Email*:** maryan_k@yahoo.com

**Sender's
Address*:** 9th Ave & E. 21st St.

**City of
Residence*:** Oakland

Message*:

Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Powered by [EmailMcForm](#)

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:08 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: **FW:** Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M; Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Keiko [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 12:19 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park
Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Keiko

Email*: kshima99@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 4617 Allendale Ave

Zip Cpde: 94619

Write your letter here: I urge you to approve a Lake Merritt dog park for the following reasons:

- 1) Oaklanders with dogs on leashes congest pathways around the park filled with walkers, runners and moms with babies and children. These dog owners would prefer to exercise their dogs in a dog park, thus freeing up space around the park for humans.
- 2) Dog parks promote responsible dog owner behavior by educating dogs and owners.
- 3) Oakland is notorious for being a dog hostile city. Residents think they are protecting their lifestyle and property values

by forcing dogs on leashes on walkways meant for human traffic. A dog park would separate humans from humans with dogs. It's a win-win solution.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 10:15 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Jason Keith [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 10:11 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Jason Keith

Email*: jkeith@nainorcal.com

Street address or intersection*: 3876 Brighton Ave.

Zip Code: 94602

Write your letter here: Please approve the dog park at Lake Merritt. I would really appreciate the opportunity to play with my kids and exercise my dog at the same time.

I can't think of a happier image than families playing with their dogs with children playing in the park behind them. It would really give us more opportunities to spend time out doors, which would help local business and I would think lead to greater city pride and less crime. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Jason Keith

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 8:36 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: **FW:** Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Frank Kelly [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2012 7:50 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Frank Kelly

Email*: sleepmonkey@comcast.net

Street address or intersection*: Paso Robles & Shepherd Canyon

Zip Code: 94611

Write your letter here: Please vote in favor of the Lake Merritt dog park.
Oakland parks are perceived as being very anti-dog, especially in comparison to neighboring communities.
Dogs get people talking and this would be a great addition to the area.
The parks should be for everyone, even those with dogs.
Thank you.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 10:43 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeane Kim [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 10:31 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Jeane Kim

Email*: Jeane.laBeane@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 17th St & Lakeside

Zip Code: 94612

Write your letter here: 6/21/12

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to urge you approve the Lakeview Dog Play area. It's already in the Master Plan, and it would make a great neighborhood meeting space. I'm a young professional who cares deeply for my dog. We walk and bike everywhere, but there are currently no dog parks in the walking or riding distance.

Having a small, local dog park near the lake would be a boon for our community. I live in Oakland because I believe in Oakland's future. I put up with regular crime and subpar facilities because I believe that Oakland needs a strong working

and professional community to help it improve and grow. The Lake Merritt area will only continue to improve if it is able to attract vibrant residents, and that means building amenities for these residents. Having a Lakeview Dog Play area would foster a sense of community and make a great use of park space, without taking anything away from our neighborhood's children or athletes. It would also generate revenue for nearby businesses as local dog owners populate the area. Please do approve the Lakeview Dog Play area. It would be a boon to our local community in every way.

Sincerely,
Jeane Kim

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 8:27 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfservlet/Oakland__Zoning__Information__Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Siobhan King [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 02, 2012 2:41 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Siobhan King

Email*: mssdaking@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 7784 Sterling Dr.

Zip Code: 94605

Write your letter here: To Whom it May Concern: as an Oakland homeowner and dog owner, and also with a place of employment within Oakland city limits:

I really would like to see a dog park at Lake Merritt to enjoy with my friends and neighbors. As the only place already approved by the city, and a great neighborhood meeting place, it only makes sense that this park would be made official to utilize by Oakland dogowners. Also, even though I do not live nearby, I know a lot of people that do and would like to know that these urban dogs have a nice place to play and be socialized that is not a cement sidewalk or a small yard or deck.

Thank you for your consideration.

Siobhan King

Clevenger, Ann

From: Siobhan King [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 17, 2012 7:16 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Siobhan King

Sender's Email*: mssdakitg@yahoo.com

Sender's Address*: 7784 Sterling Dr.

City of Residence*: Oakland

Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Powered by [EmailMeForm](#)

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 8:36 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert.D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Kristopher Knutson [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 8:20 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Kristopher Knutson

Email*: zym@myuw.net

Street address or intersection*: Dana St

Zip Code: 94705

: I support adding designated dog areas to the park at Lake Merrit. It is in the spirit of community, is a play place for people and pets, and leaves a positive legacy for our children.

Thank you,
Kristopher Knutson

Clevenger, Ann

From: Leigh Korn [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 12:01 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; **Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net**
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Leigh Korn

Email*: leighkorn@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 66 Fairmount Avenue

Zip Code: 94611

: Dear Council,

I strongly encourage you to approve the Lakeview Dog Play Area. Having the play area would be a great community builder for our area in Oakland. It makes a better use of park space and, frankly, it's only fair to share the green space at the Lake. There are nearly 100 acres and the Dog Play Area would only be a mere half an acre. I am a proud resident of Oakland and a proud dog owner. Please take what is already in the Master Plan and build it now.

Thank you!

Leigh Korn
66 Fairmount Avenue #218
Oakland, CA 94611

Clevenger, Ann

From: Sue Kramer [suekra@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 2:14 PM

To: quan@oaklandnet.com; Brunner, Jane; "pkernighan"@oaklandnet.com; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; odogparks@comcast.net

Subject: Dog Park approval

Dear Council Member I strongly urge you to APPROVE the proposal for the Lake Merritt dog park.

As a disabled woman living alone I depend on my dog for companionship and for opportunities to socialize. It seems only fair with 85+ acres of park at Lake Merritt, that a mere half acre could provide space for people with dogs. When the kids are gone, we still like to use the parks with what's left of our family but Oakland law prohibits it. I can no longer hike in the hills the way I used to, I certainly can't play tennis or use the soccer field. Give me space to play with my dog.

Space for dog owners was written into the Master Plan for exactly this park. Let's get on with it and stop pandering to people who claims their lives will be diminished by the rest of us having a place in the park. There are NO OTHER LOCAL PLACES FOR THE DOG RUN (per OPR, public works and CM Kernighan and Nadel). This is our ONLY CHANCE.

The city has approved this park twice for LAKEVIEW. It is the ONLY place at Lake Merritt that has ever been approved and it should be APPROVED right now by city council. The dog park plan was carefully worked out by city agencies to serve the unmet needs identified in the Master Plan and it should not be denied us because people claim they will be losing "their" so called "green space" They've got almost 100 acres of parkland in Lake Merritt. How selfish to claim that they need THIS half acre to maintain their quality of life and the rest of us should just continue to go to blighted areas under freeways to play with our dogs.

I trust you will see the long term benefits of moving ahead with the dog park at Lakeview and APPROVE the dog park. Thank you.

Sue Kramer

Rockridge

[Go to Previous message](#) | [Go to Next message](#) | [Back to Messages](#)

| [Full Headers](#)

Sue Kramer LCSW,MPH
510 548-1150

11/9/2012

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 2:32 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfserver/Oakland__Zoning__Information__Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Meghan Krank-McLean [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 12:47 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Meghan Krank-McLean

Email*: mngojuice@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 734 59th street

Zip Code: 94609

Write your letter here: I support the proposed Lake Merritt dog park. There are so many green spaces around lake meritt, and in most of them dogs are not permitted. This is ridiculous! If dogs arent allowed in the grassy areas, let us have a space where I can hang out with my dogs.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 4:11 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Carole Levenson [mailto:burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 3:44 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat. Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Carole Levenson

Email*: carolesl@jps.net

Street address or intersection*: Beiievue Staten

Zip Code: 94610

Write your letter here: Dear All,

I have been working, meeting, lobbying for the dog park at MacArthur and Lakeshore for many years. My dog is now 11 1/2 years old! Will he live long enough to see it built?

Please help him to make that dream a reality!

We now walk to Piedmont. where we have off-leash tags and our choice of parks in which he can frolic off-leash, but he is getting older, and the walk seems longer; wouldn't it be nice if we could go to a dog park in our own neighborhood?

Hardy Park is shared by children and dogs, so our park could be, as well. There are many days and many hours when the

park is unused, and is empty. Dog owners (taxpayers!) should not be deprived of play space, either. A dog park is a community building entity; good for the neighborhood, good for Oakland!

This can be a win for everyone!
Please make it happen!

Sincerely,
Carole Levenson
492 Staten Avenue #1103
Oakland, CA 94610
834-2040

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 2:17 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfserver/Oakland_Zoning_Information_Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Betsy Levine [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 10:09 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Betsy Levine

Email*: westiegrrl@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 240 Mather St.

Zip Code: 94611

Write your letter here: Please do the right thing by abiding by the the Master Plan for Oakland and creating a space for dogs to play off leash at Lake Merritt. This neighborhood needs a space that is just for dogs. Space has been made for many other groups, now it's time for dogs and their owners.

Thank you for listening.

Betsy Levine

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 2:31 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfserver/Oakland_Zoning_Information_Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Wendy Leyden [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 12:33 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat. Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Wendy Leyden

Email*: walandera-w@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: Vicente Rd

Zip Code: 94705

Write your letter here: Dear Oakland City Council members,

Please approve the proposed dog park at Lake Merritt! There is plenty of space to share among everyone who wants to use the park. Dogs need a safe space to play in as much as children do.

Thank you!

-Wendy Leyden

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 8:36 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert.D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Travis Leyva/Bruce Wilkinson [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 10:50 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Travis Leyva/Bruce Wilkinson

Email*: eastbay.cowboys@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 3724 38th. Ave.

Zip Code: 94619

: Come on... Let's get this done. Y'all have dilly dallied enough already!!!
Let's open the dog park already.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 1:45 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Elayne Lieberman [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 1:38 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Elayne Lieberman

Email*: Lingolayne@aol.com

Street address or intersection*: 484 Lake Park Ave #284

Zip Code: 94610

Write your letter here: Dear Oakland Council Members...The Kids have their many different spots to play, the Canadian Geese have made it all but impossible for me to stroll around the Lake with my Dog...The Geese are from Canada for Peet's sake...There are so many other places around the Park Areas of the Lake where people can play soccer, kids can have picnics, the Canadian Geese can fly and mess up the grounds...BUT THERE IS NO PLACE FOR ME TO BRING MY VERY WELL BEHAVED DOGGY and be able to socialize with my Neighborhood Pals and let my dog get some exercise...not to mention getting some exercise myself I have no children, I live by the Lake, The Dog Park has been part of the Original Lake Beautification Program for the past 10 years. This is a perfect location--far enough away from the Botanical Center and Fairyland. The Lake Area, which is jam packed with apartment dwellers with dogs, needs a place for Dog Owners to congregate. This area has been rampant with crime of late. Isn't this a great way of keeping the Neighbors

communication lines open to discuss ways to prevent the many robberies and muggings? Who are these new people in the area that are fighting the original plans of the Beautification Program? Please Please Please...let's make the Lake a great location for all...not just kids, not just ball players, not just the Canadian Geese....but someone who's lived in the area for years--a NATIVE OAKLANDER-- that would love to be able to have a location to go to with my doggy and have some fun.Thank you.

Clevenger, Ann

From: dayyan lord [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 11:21 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: lake merrit allowables

Your Name*: dayyan lord

Email*: dayyan@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 1389 jefferson st

Zip Code: 94612

: Please let dogs in the park. I feel that it creates a friendlier community vibe.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 1:46 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

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Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfserver/Oakland_Zoning_Information_Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Pat Luiz [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 1:44 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat. Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Pat Luiz

Email*: kayakerhacker@sbcglobal.net

Street address or intersection*: 3930 Edwards Ave

Zip Code: 94605

Write your letter here: Please allow companion animals a place to play together. Children having animals teaches them responsibility, compassion and most of all love. Do not limit their growth.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Ken MacCardle [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 20, 2012 12:19 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Ken MacCardle
Sender's Email*: kmaccardle@mofo.com
Sender's Address*: 1036 Bayview Ave. Oakland, CA
City of Residence*: Oakland

Message*:

Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you. As someone who lives pretty close to the proposed site, I have to say that we're all really excited by the prospect of a new dog park so close by. Please approve this project.
Thanks,
Ken MacCardle

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 4:11 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Dolores Restrepo Macias [mailto:burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 4:02 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaat; Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Dolores Restrepo Macias

Email*: doeluvs@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 320 Oakland Avenue, Apt B

Zip Code: 94611

Write your letter here: It would simply be amazing! I commute to Point Isabel, Joaquin Miller, Linda Park. I would greatly appreciate a local dog park in Lake Merritt, that one would be able to walk to without having to drive a vehicle! I walk my pup often around Lake Merritt, yet there is not an official off leash area for her to run around safely and freely! I live nearby , makes a great neighborhood meeting place, makes better use of park space, itss the ONLY place already approved by the city, my kids would love it! Please help our "furrykids" , they are a part of our family/community too!

Thank you for any considerations!
D.R.Macias

Clevenger, Ann

From: Renee Mack [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:46 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Renee Mack

Email*: rtm2002@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 424 Staten Ave, Grand and Staten

Zip Code: 94610

: Hi City Council,

I'm writing to support the planned dog park at Lake Merritt. I recently acquired a puppy as a companion. I've recently had open heart surgery to deal with a serious congenital heart defect and a dog was suggested to help with my healing process. Although I have not had my pup for very long, I've noticed that there are "no dog" signs everywhere around the lake and I feel like there are very few places in my own neighborhood I can take my dog to exercise and learn how to socialize with other dogs. Please build this park.

Thanks,

Renee Mack, Registered Voter

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:07 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert.D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfserver/Oakland__Zoning__Information__Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Janet Magnuson [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 7:24 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Janet Magnuson

Email*: tenaj414@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 268 Orange Street

Zip Code: 94610

Write your letter here: Dear City Council Members, I am very interested in having the Lake Merritt Dog Park. I was unable to attend the last planning session because I was in Los Angeles for Work. I live in Adams Point--and the city of Oakland is the most dog unfriendly place I have ever lived (I've lived many different places) . I just want a place I can take my dog off -leash that I can walk to. Adams Point is seriously lacking in green space, we need this dog park This dog park was agreed to many years ago and now a few very vocal people have expressed concerns that are extremely reactionary-- these folks have so many places to take their kids and to play soccer-I have no place to take my dog, how is that fair? I used to live in San Francisco and the dog park (Dolores Park) is where I met all of my friends and neighbors. It was a great meeting place for me and my dog. Since I have lived in Oakland for 8 years, I travel to Fort Funston in San Francisco, Point Isabel, Alameda--spending my money in those places just so I can take my dog off -leash. Dolores Park is

a good example of mixed use -they have a kids play area, a dog play area, and nobody gets hurt. It works out fine and will work out fine at Lake Merritt. Please take our voices into consideration and build the agreed to dog park that's in the Master Plan!

Thank you for your consideration,

Janet Magnuson

Clevenger, Ann

From: Marlowe Douglas [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 21, 2012 9:38 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Marlowe Douglas

Email*: Marlowedouglas@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: Moss at Oakland ave

Zip Code: 94610

: We need more places ffor people like menwith dogs. I go by. And The proposed location is seldom in use and we think it jus FAIR to make use of city space for more people. The park is meant for everyone not just people with kids and there is lots of other green space in the neighborhood.

As our representatives you need to think. Beyond a few hundred NIMBYs and for the long term good of the city. Please Approve the dog park. Thank you.

Marlowe on Moss

Clevenger, Ann

From: Terri [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 7:41 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Terri

Email*: Mcintoshterri@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 2424 linden street

Zip Code: 94607

: Inam writing on behalf of the dog park near the lake. I think it would be a good idea for one to be there, they have a nice one in alameda. I am a animal lover, and I think we should have a pale for the dogs to be able to run around and play, especially if their owners work all day and if they are In an apartment all cooped up.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Allyn McGillicuddy [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:04 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Allyn McGillicuddy

Email*: Amcgillicuddy@oocio.com

Street address or intersection*: Redwood Heights

Zip Code: 94619

: Dear Ms Schaaf. We need your strong support for the dog park at Lake Merriitt. The place needs to be used for all of us. Right now even with kids and soccer there is plenty of room at the park. Please approve this now.
Thank you.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Shelley McPeek [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 10:22 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kemighan, Pat Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Shelley McPeek
Sender's Email*: shell.chef@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 1012 E 28th St
City of Residence*: Oakland

Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

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Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 3:51 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: **FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park**

FYI

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfserver/Oakland__Zoning__Information__Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Marilyn Miller [mailto:burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 2:32 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Lakeview Family Dog Park More dog poop , less goose poop YOU decide

Name*: Marilyn Miller

Email*: himomiller@sbcglobal.net

Street address or intersection*: Boston and MacArthur

Zip Code: 94602

Write your letter here: Back in the early days of city parks there were probably "No dogs in Park" signs. But times change. Those who wrked on the Lake Merritt master plan recognized that the character of the surrounding population was changing. The proportion of dog OWNERS to the rest of the population was steadily increasing. And they took into consideration the quality of life for dog OWNERS AND their dogs and set aside space for a DOG PARK. Do you really want to turn back the clock?

I pass that space frequently and it is a rare occasion to see it inundated with humans (geese, yes) . Last time I passed there the soccer 'field' was parallel with Grand Avenue.

To conclude on a lighter note, more happy dogs and people in/around that dog park space means less goose poop, more

dog poop (at least this will get picked up) :->

Clevenger, Ann

From: Becky Nielsen [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2012 4:20 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Becky Nielsen

Email*: rbremser@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 743 Warfield Avenue

Zip Code: 94610

: Good afternoon Commissioners,

I am writing to encourage you to support a dog park at Lake Merritt. I recently relocated from St. Petersburg, Florida. I love my new home! I choose to live at Lake Merritt for three reasons, the fact that I was in walking distance to public transportation, great food shopping, and the dog park. I used the city's master plan as my guide in selecting the neighborhood to live. The plan identified a park at Lake Merritt, which is when I knew this was the neighborhood for my family!

The dog parks I frequently in St. Petersburg were not just a great place for me to exercise my dog, but a gathering place for my friends. It was part of my evening routine. I was able to meet people from all different parts of my city. I became friends with these people, I helped them network to find a job, brought food to them when they were sick (I knew they were sick because they didn't show up one evening at the dog park), and shared many laughs.

Being new to the city, I was depending on this park to meet new friends and become a part of a new network and community.

I live in a small apartment complex approximately two blocks from the proposed park. My building has twelve units with twelve families. The building is also home to ten dogs. We are all in favor of having a dog park located at Lake Merritt. We desperately hope you will also support a dog park.

Thank you,
Becky

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 9:47 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Ann Noriega [mailto:burst@emailneform.com]
Sent Wednesday, June 13, 2012 6:50 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Ann Noriega

Email*: anorie@sbcglobal.net

Street address or intersection*: Tulip Ave

Zip Code: 94619

Write your letter here: I am 55 years old and have a sweet dog Lucy. We frequent dog parks in fact on Sunday (last) we were in Alameda and sat with a bunch of strangers having great conversation and our dogs were having a great time also. I now know their names and thru past got to know more people KIND OF LIKE CHEERS NOW WHERE EVERY BODY KNOWS YOUR NAME AND LUCYS.

Nice clean relaxing fun. We need our space too. I have lived in our FINE CITY FOR 30 YEARS PAYING TAXES where do I go..... My dog KEEPS ME YOUNG, and we need our space.

PLEASE HELP US

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 8:37 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Ann Noriega [mailto:burst@emailreform.com]
Sent Wednesday, July 18, 2012 6:50 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Ann Noriega

Email*: Anorie@sbcglobal.net

Street address or intersection*: 4474 Tulip Ave

Zip Code: 94619

: Have you ever been to a dog park? This is a no brainer!

Great exercise for you and dogs. Great social group, I have been going to Alameda small dog park it's like CHEERS

WHERE EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR NAME AND THE DOGS!

Relaxing peaceful good clean family fun.

Clevenger, Ann

From: John Nunes [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 10:22 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: John Nunes

Email*: jnunes@earthlink.net

Street address or intersection*: 305 Perkins

Zip Code: 94610

: I strongly support the dog park at Lake Merritt. I have two dogs and live nearby. The nearest space to take my dogs currently is in Piedmont. Dog parks help build community and give the dogs a place to exercise and mingle with other animals. It's a good thing.

Cleyenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 4:19 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

again

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Oldershaw [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 2:15 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Susan Oldershaw

Email*: lottydah2002@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 770 Prospect Ave

Zip Code: 94610

Write your letter here: The decision made by the Planning Decision was such a disappointment for myself, my family and nearby friends. We had so looked forward to being able to walk to our own dog park. At this time, we are either driving to Point Isabel or the dog park in Alameda. This uses gas, creates more pollution and often I stop in Alameda and do some shopping which could be done in my own neighborhood Lakeshore neighborhood. I believe that there was some unfounded hysteria by some members of the opposition about the location of the proposed dog park being next to the playground.

Loving and caring about other living creatures such as dogs, makes for healthier children/adults. When I pictured the dog park adjacent to the playground I saw it as a beautiful, positive sight. One of the pro people at the meeting who lives near Hardy Park even mentioned that there was an adjacent playground there and the children were always enamored and

paying attention to the dogs. The O Dog people are such a devoted and sincere group of people and I believe would never allow anything to detract from the beauty of Lake Merritt - another unfounded fear, I believe. I also find the patience and dedication of these people amazing considering that this parcel of land was "approved" for a dog park over 10 years ago. I lived in Orange County before I moved here and it took us 2 years from beginning to end to get our dog park opened. There is really enough room for everyone on that parcel. I pass it all the time and most of the time the only part occupied is in the playground area. As a senior citizen this would encourage me to leave my house, get some exercise and maybe even make some new friends.

Please reconsider the decision for this much needed amenity to our neighborhood. Thank you for taking the time to listen.

Susan Oldershaw

Clevenger, Ann

From: Carlton Osborne [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 16, 2012 6:33 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Carlton Osborne
Sender's Email*: Carlton@printroom.com
Sender's Address*: 5221 Manila Ave, Oakland, CA 94618
City of Residence*: Oakland

Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

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Clevenger, Ann

From: Elizabeth Osborne [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 2:44 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Elizabeth Osborne

Email*: elizosbo@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Warfield Ave and Glenview

Zip Code: 94610

: I love living in Lakeshore and my dog and I have met a lot of other owners and dogs in our walks around the neighborhood, very frequently the dogs hit it off and want to play together, unfortunately there is no where to go nearby and it is too dangerous to let them play on leash on the side walk, either as a hindrance to other pedestrians or a danger to the dogs with their proximity to traffic. I know the day a dog park opened by the lake every dog in my building (and there are 8 of them) would meet up for a long overdue building play time and maybe give our poor hallways a rest!

Please do whatever you can to expedite this process.

Elizabeth and Stella

Clevenger, Ann

From: Cynthia Ott [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2012 11:26 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Cynthia Ott

Email*: cynprowax@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 3922 Canon Ave #7

Zip Code: 94602

Clevenger, Ann

From: Carol Parker [burst@emailmeform.com]

Sent: Sunday, June 17, 2012 8:24 PM

To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat Nadel, Nancy

Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Carol Parker

**Sender's
Email*:** ca_parker@hotmail.com

**Sender's
Address*:** Bay Farm Island

**City of
Residence*:** Alameda, 94502

Message*:

Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, Although we live in Alameda and have our own small dog park at Crab Cove, we wish there were a small dog park in Oakland. My husband works in downtown Oakland and we attend religious services in Oakland. We lived in Montclair for a decade and have many friends in Oakland. It would be great if we could socialize with them and our small dog at a designated park. Give it a chance. Even people from surrounding communities such as San Leandro and Alameda would come to Oakland with our pets to enjoy it and spend our money in the neighborhood on family outings with our pets. I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Thanks much, Carol Parker

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Clevenger, Ann

From: Elise Perelman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 14, 2012 9:55 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Elise Perelman
Sender's Email*: empearls@gmai.com
Sender's Address*: 458 Alcatraz Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland

Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission,

Message*: I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. I am new to Oakland and the only dog park I know of right now is under an overpass at Frog Park (which, by the way, illustrates that both a dog park AND a children's park can peacefully co-exist!). A dog park at Lakeview would be a wonderful COMMUNITY addition. There are many playgrounds for children (I have two of them) and my children have enough open space to run around in. However, we are adopting a dog from Oakland Animal services today and our new pooch will need more space to run around and be social with other dogs.

Building a dog park (in a green, open space and not under an overpass!) is extremely important to Oakland because dog parks have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

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Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 8:37 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfserver/Oakland_Zoning_Information_Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Elise Perelman [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 3:12 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Elise Perelman

Email*: empearls@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 458 Alcatraz Ave

Zip Code: 94609

: I desperately want the Lake Merritt Dog Park to come to fruition. Not only is it in the Master Plan and will make Oakland a better city, but my children would love to be able to take their new family member (a lovely Boston terrier just adopted from Oakland Animal Services) to the park so that both she and they could play. The area is already approved for a dog park and numerous studies show that dog parks actually bring value to a neighborhood. Proof that a dog park and playground can co-exist is right here in Rockridge at Frog Park. Let's make better use of the park space at Lake Merritt and include canines!

Clevenger, Ann

From: Shelby Robertson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 9:23 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Shelby Robertson
Sender's Email*: shelby.e.robertson@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 459 stow ave
City of Residence*: Oakland

Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

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Clevenger, Ann

From: Shelby Robertson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 9:59 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Shelby Robertson

Email*: shelby.e.robertson@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 459 Stow Ave.

Zip Code: 94606

: Please approve the Lake Merrit Dog Park.

My dog jimmy Dean and I walk around the lake every day and never see anyone using that space. Even if multiple parties should want to share the park, that should be allowed - even for dog owners! We deserve a place to enjoy!

We have to drive to Alameda to go to the small dog park there. There is nothing in walking distance.

Sincerely,

Shelby, Jimmy Dean, and Anders

Clevenger, Ann

From: Christopher rodriguez [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 21, 2012 10:36 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Christopher rodriguez

Email*: Crisr88@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: Foothill at third

Zip Code: 94606

: We were shocked to find there was no place we could take our dog at the lake when we moved here. the park needs to provide for everyone not just children and soccer players. Give us Lakeviewdog dog park as planned now

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:08 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert.D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Frances Rohrbach [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 4:00 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat. Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Frances Rohrbach

Email*: fay@heartservice.com

Street address or intersection*: 5360 Shafter Avenue

Zip Code: 94618

Write your letter here: Please approve the plans to implement the dog park at Lake Merritt. Give ALL residents of Oakland a place to play. There is plenty of room there for everybody to have a place to play and just have fun.

It has already been approved by the City and the only reason it didn't go through at the last meeting was that there was an outpouring of voices from the ones that don't want it. And may I also add here, that this group did not follow the rules for the meeting and had people speak out of turn and for longer than their allotted times. There has to be better monitoring of the meeting so everyone is treated fairly.

I pay taxes, too, and although I don't have any soccer players in my family
w
who would use the park, I do have a dog that would. I am a responsible
dog owner who would follow all rules set up for the park, including picking
up after my dog and not allowing my dog to be in places designated for
other uses.

Again, THE PARK IS BIG ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A PLACE TO PLAY.

Thank you

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 4:19 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

And again

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
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930-4 W
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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Jodie Rothhouse [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 4:04 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Jodie Rothhouse

Email*: jodie@pacbell.net

Street address or intersection*: 3736 woodruff ave

Zip Code: 94602

Write your letter here: One of the best things about Oakland is the number of families and individuals that love their dogs! Having a dog park is not only great for the dogs, but it's an excellent source of socialization for children as well as for us grown ups. There are often people who fight change, but this has already been approved by the city and there are more reasons to create this source of activity than to stifle it.

Please go forward with the plans to create a dog park- it will be a bonus for the whole community!

Thank you for your kind consideration,
Jodie Rothhouse

Clevenger, Ann

From: Kari Sachs [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 5:44 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Kari Sachs

Email*: kcsachs@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 121 Embarcadero West

Zip Code: 94607

: Please consider approving the addition of a dog park for Lake Merritt. Dog parks bring the community together--the interactions between people and their pets actually encourage people to TALK to each other and not just walk past each other. This ultimately lays the foundation to begin to care about each other, continuing to nurture a strong community in Oakland. This space is already in the master plan, please build it now. It is the only place already approved by the city and it is only fair to share the green space at the lake (how much space to the geese and birds take up!)

Even John Stewart and his team see the value!
<http://video.msnbc.msn.com/rock-center/49203156>

Thank you for your consideration. My golden retriever and my family hope to be able to visit Lake Merritt together soon!

Kari Sachs

Clevenger, Arun

From: Janel Sanchez [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:47 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Janel Sanchez

Email*: Janelsanchez.1@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Cleveland Heights

Zip Code: 94606

: I am not a dog owner but I find it outrageous that people irate trying to stop the dig park with spread of mis information. There's space for every kind of activity at the lake except people with dogs. I would love to come to the dog park to see happy people and dogs. Give the community a safe legal space to gather

Clevenger, Ann

From: Kerry Seo [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:42 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Kerry Seo

Email*: Kerryseo58@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: Clemens

Zip Code: 94602

: Woof. We dog owners need a place to go with our canine family members. The lake is beautiful and should be available to everyone.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 2:27 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: **FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park**

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfserver/Oakland__Zoning__Information__Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Lily Servais [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 2:26 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Lily Servais

Email*: lily.servais@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 92 Hamilton Placve

Zip Code: 94612

Write your letter here: Dear Oakland City Counsel Representatives,

Please approve (and build quickly) the Lake Merritt dog park. I live a few blocks from the lake and often run/walk around it. I am constantly impressed by how many people are using the different park amenities. Adding an off leash dog play area would do nothing but enhance the Lake Merritt area. I don't own a dog, but I might some day and I would love to take them to a park a in my own neighborhood.

Thank you,

Clevenger, Ann

From: Katy Simola [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:12 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Katy Simola

Email*: Costumer.katy@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Bartlett

Zip Code: 94601

: As a work at home professional I would love a chance to take my dog to the park at Lakeview. There are no dog parks where I live so time to visit with other people at the central Oakland dog park would be invaluable. We have to make sure parks serve ALL of us not just sports and playgrounds.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Sheila Singh [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 21, 2012 10:03 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Sheila Singh

Email*: Ssingh21@csustan.edu

Street address or intersection*: Lakeshore

Zip Code: 94606

: We need a dog park HERE. THE GREEN SPACE DOESN'T GET USED. DOG OWNERS WOULD CARE FOR IT AND FORM COMMUNITY. It is not good use of our resources to have hundreds of lake area dog owners driving to Albany and Alameda everyday for their dogs when there is space available and already planned for dog owners. Please approve the dog park now

Clevenger, Ann

From: julie skoler [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 9:29 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: julie skoler

Email*: julieskoler@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 657 capell street

Zip Code: 94610

: city council,

please approve of the lake merritt dog park. make the judicious decision to share the green space at the lake. it's only 1/2 an acre of almost 100 acres! it makes a great neighborhood meeting place, strengthening community, and it is in the master plan, so please build it now.

thank you,
julie skoler

Clevenger, Ann

From: Lance Spalding [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 8:41 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Lance Spalding

Email*: dlspalding@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 502 Fairbanks Ave #4

Zip Code: 94619

: Please approve this dog park. There is so much room around Lake Merrit and none of it can be used by dogs and their owners. This will be a great location for many reasons. The area merchants will get a boost because dog owners tend to "hang out" and spend money...buy coffee, snacks etc. Also, believe it or not, things will be cleaner. Dog owners almost always pick up after their dogs. Geese well....never pick up after themselves.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Jan and Gene St. Onge [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2012 2:37 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Jan and Gene St. Onge

Email*: janfit@sbcglobal.net

Street address or intersection*: 6839 Saroni Dr. Oakland

Zip Code: 94611

: On behalf of the thousands of Oakland dog owners - we need the space at Lake Merritt for a dog park. We don't take our dog to this area because she needs to run free. it's fair to share the green space at the Lake-almost 100 acres and we're asking for a half acre here and now!

If it's approved by the City, then we surely have paid property and local taxes to fund this park.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Rose Sutton Sutton [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 11:57 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Rose Sutton Sutton
Sender's Email*: rsutton@alumnae.mills.edu
Sender's Address*: 535 41st Street
City of Residence*: Oakland

Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Powered by [EmailMeForm](#)

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 2:18 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfservlet/Oakland_Zoning_Information_Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Rose Sutton [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 4:08 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park
Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Rose Sutton

Email*: rsutton@alumnae.mills.edu

Street address or intersection*: 535 41st Street

Zip Code: 94609

Write your letter here: This city need a dog park near Lake Merritt! It's nuts that it's taken this long to get a much need dog park!

-Rose

Clevenger, Am

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 1:46 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Tebault [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 1:24 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Diane Tebault

Email*: goldengaterescue@sbcglobal.net

Street address or intersection*: 4016 Canon Avenue

Zip Code: 94602

Write your letter here: I am outraged in this day and age that Oakland can't realize the advantages of courting dog owners and providing for their needs. Are we not citizens who pay taxes? Are our needs to be continually ignored? I am outraged that this dog park so carefully planned, which site was already approved by the city can be blocked by selfish parents who are repelled by the idea of animals near their pristine, germ-free children. I am tired of driving long distances, usually to another city, to access dog-friendly exercise spaces. I live in Oakland. I own a dog. I am responsible. I pay taxes. Why cannot dog owners have something OTHER than a dump to exercise their dogs?

If Oakland hadn't completely banned dogs in parks to begin with we wouldn't be here.

Do something already.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Diane Tebault [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 11:10 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Diane Tebault

Email*: goldengaterescue@sbcglobal.net

Street address or intersection*: 4016 Canon Avenue

Zip Code: 94602

: Why Oakland continues to be the last Bay Area city to acknowledge that dog owners are a large voting block really amazes me. There is a wonderful dog park in the Master Plan. Why Oakland continues to delay and delay approval is not clear to me. Every time I see a tennis court, baseball field, soccer field, play area, it infuriates me: My dog and I are absolutely segregated from using any of these areas, and yet Oakland continues to act as if they don't have any obligation to dog-owning citizens. You know we don't ALL own pitbulls, you idiots.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 2:18 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: **FW:** Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Tifani [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 8:16 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Tifani

Email*: Protif@hotmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Macarthur and Howe

Zip Code: 94611

Write your letter here: I'm tired of driving to Richmond to enjoy time with my dog

It elevates the surrounding area

Everyone can enjoy a beautiful park. Dog owners and non dog owners.

I live very close to a great park that doesn't allow dogs at all, boo!

It builds a strong sense of community

Clevenger, Ann

From: Christina Tom [burst@emailmeform.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 8:18 AM

To: odogparks@comcast.net Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat Nadel, Nancy

Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Christina Tom

**Sender's
Email*:** christinawtom@gmail.com

**Sender's
Address*:** Jefferson

**City of
Residence*:** Oakland

Message*:

Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Powered by [EmailMcForm](#)

Clevenger, Ann

From: DON TRINH [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 08, 2012 5:21 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: DON TRINH
Sender's Email*: DONTTRINH@SBCGLOBAL.NET
Sender's Address*: 8051 PHAETON DR
City of Residence*: Oakland

Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Powered by [EmailMeForm](#)

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 3:16 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Essie Santana Tuttle [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 3:09 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Essie Santana Tuttle

Email*: estuttle@hotmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 5643 Florence Terrace, Oakland, CA

Zip Cpde: 95611

Write your letter here: Please approve the original master plan to include the Lakeview Dog Play Area. Most East Bay families have dogs in their families and we greatly need a dog park nearby! Our families, children, grandparents, everyone will love having this dog park.

There are many other nearby locations for children's activities, soccer playing, and other activities.

Please show your support to the many tax paying voters who need and want this dog park!

Thank you for your support!

Essie Santana Tuttle

Clevenger, Ann

From: Julia Vaughan [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 8:57 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Julia Vaughan

Email*: julia.m.vaughan@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 968 43rd St

: Dear City Council,

I support the proposed dog park at Lake Merritt. Having an enclosed, separate space for dogs will be a huge benefit to the community. With such a large area already reserved for children, there is plenty of space to go around.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Julia Vaughan

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:08 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Walsh [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 1:32 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Tom Walsh

Email*: maura__tom@comcast.net

Street address or intersection*: 1412 Barrows Rd

Zip Code: 94610

Write your letter here: This dog park would make a wonderful meeting place for those of us Seniors who own dogs and live within walking distance of the park.

A dog park was approved for this location 10 years ago. We are not getting any younger.

Follow through now!

Thank you.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Lesley weaver [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 21, 2012 10:21 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Lesley weaver

Email*: Lesley.weaver@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 2206 9th ave

Zip Code: 94606

: Dear Ignacio,

I am an active political resident recently moved to Oakland and on the board of women Lawyers of Alameda County, and I have two sweet dogs. I enjoy living in Oakland very much but there is a critical need for spaces where dogs can run and socialize in the city. The best way to encourage responsible dog ownership is to create space for owners to exercise them and form a healthy community.

Please support lake view dog park. We need your help to thrive in this community.

Regards,

Lesley Weaver

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert.
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 8:37 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Benjamin Westheimer [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2012 9:35 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat. Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Benjamin Westheimer

Email*: bwestheimer@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 47 Chatsworth Ct

Zip Code: 94611

Clevenger, Ann

From: Benjamin Westheimer [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 10:17 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Benjamin Westheimer

Email*: bwestheimer@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 47 Chatsworth Ct.

Zip Code: 94611

: I am all for a dog park in this location. Why should local residents and their dogs have to go miles away to reach another dog park? Since it has been approved already why not bring it to fruition?

Sincerely,

Benjamin Westheimer

Clevenger, Ann

From: Jenna Whitman [burst@emailreform.com]
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2012 8:25 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please please please **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Jenna Whitman

Email*: jenna__whitman@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 1570 Jackson St.

Zip Code: 94612

: I am a dog owner but I also hike, jog, and ride my bicycle all over Oakland - and all over the Bay Area. Walkers and bikers have access to so much more of Oakland. By contrast, there are only a few places that dogs can go off leash - a handful of off-leash fenced dog parks and a few trails and recreational areas.

Dog owners are not asking for a lot of space - it's a fraction of what is available for people to walk, jog and play in the City.

It would be wonderful if the City would approve one more small space so that dogs and their owners who live around Lake Merritt can be healthy and happy, just like the non-dog people, without having to drive.

Thank you!

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2012 8:29 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Elaine Wnng [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 9:20 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Elaine Wnng

Email*: greatmstuff415@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: Grand Ave and Perkins

Zip Code: 94609

: Please allow and approve this long awaited space for dogs and their owners.

It will be a great asset to the neighborhood, and will bring plenty of positive activities to the area.

It will not intrude or interfere with the current activities currently going on at the park.

The amount of space they are asking for is not intrusive and is fair.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Christine wolfe [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:22 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Dog park would help kids

Your Name*: Christine wolfe

Email*: Chnwolfe@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: Maxwell park

Zip Code: 94619

: We would love to bring our kids and dogs to Lakeviewdog park. There needs to be a place at theLake where we can go with our whole family

Clevenger, Ann

From: Kate Wolfson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:18 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Désley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Kate Wolfson

Email*: Kelly.wolfson@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Piedmont ave

: We need a place in this crowded neighborhood so the dogs will have a legal space to go and not bother others. I am stuck at Mosswood dog park now and while it is better than nothing I think dog owners inOaklandI deserve a NICE place to go. You need to approve the park at Astro for people with dogs.

Thanks. Kate

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 2:17 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: alena [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 12:47 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: alena

Email*: alena.woods@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 40 mulford point

Write your letter here: I support oakland residents in their efforts to have dog parks

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 9:12 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Again (let me know if you're also receiving these)

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

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Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: Glenn Woroch [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 8:20 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaat, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: Glenn Woroch

Email*: woroch@sbcglobal.net

Street address or intersection*: 28 Woodside Glen Court

Zip Code: 94602

Write your letter here: There are over 78 million owned dogs in the U.S. out of the approximately 115 million households. It is estimated that 39% of U.S. households own one or more dogs. Oakland is probably close to the national averages.

Any way you size it up, dog owners are a large constituency which does not ask for much. Please make this small gesture and approve the Lakeview Dog Park.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Glenn Woroch [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 9:56 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: why we need dog paks

Your Name*: Glenn Woroch

Email*: woroch@sbcglobal.net

Street address or intersection*: 28 Woodside Glen Court

Zip Code: 94602

: Dog parks ...

- 1) Create community among dog owners
- 2) Congregate dogs in one place

What more could you want?

Clevenger, Ann

From: Joe Wyman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 8:34 AM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Time to **APPROVE** Lakeview Family Dog Park

Your Name*: Joe Wyman

Email*: ljwyman@comcast.net

Street address or intersection*: 4903 Stoneridge Court

Zip Code: 94605

: Honorable Councilmembers:

We respectfully request your support for the proposed Lake Merritt dog park ! We think it will add a great space for our furry friends to be safe, off-the-street. and have recreational opportunities. The space is very close to a high density populated area making access very easy without needing a car.

The Lake Merritt dog park has already been reviewed and approved in the Master Plan. why should the Council now reverse years of planning and discussion on this vital open space improvement.

Thank you for your support of this important public project.

Joe Wyman

Clevenger, Ann

From: Merkamp, Robert
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:08 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: FW: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Robert D. Merkamp
Acting Zoning Manager

Zoning Counter Hours:
8-4 M, Tu, Th, F
930-4 W
No Appointment Needed to Visit!

Ready to Submit a Planning Application? Call 510-238-3940 to set an appointment!

General and Quick Question? Call the Zone Phone Hotline: 510-238-3911

Zoning Online Question Form: http://cedaonlineforms.oaklandnet.com/lfserver/Oakland__Zoning__Information__Request

Zoning Webpage: www.oaklandnet.com/planning

-----Original Message-----

From: kristina [mailto:burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 5:02 PM
To: Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaat, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca; Merkamp, Robert; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Subject*: Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park

Name*: kristina

Email*: krisyat@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 3124 Linden St

Zip Code: 94608

Write your letter here: I really hope you will approve a dog park at Lake Merritt. So many people walk their dogs near the lake and a dog park would be wonderful. It would be a great spot for children with families to be able to take their dogs as well as a wonderful place for children to be exposed to dogs in a positive setting. It would make a great place for folks to socialize where the children can play nearby and the dogs can have a place to play as well.

It is in the Master Plan and is the only area already approved by the city. I hope you will please approve the dog park.

Thanks!

Kristina Yates

Clevenger, Ann

From: Angela Younglove [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2012 10:48 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Angela Younglove
Sender's Email*: angelinayl@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: 428 Alice Street Oakland, CA 94607
City of Residence*: Oakland

Message*:

Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Powered by [EmailMeForm](#)

5	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Randy Westhoffer	dogspirit@sbcglobal.net	3232 Maple Ave	94602	AS you may know they have just eroded more rights of dogs at Dunn & Sepertine trails. As the urban areas becomes increasingly congested more and more land that was once free for dogs to run and play in is now being taken away. Where are these dogs to go? Are they to be confined to back yards and small apartments? We then wonder why they become anxious and aggressive. This space is in the Master Plan, let it go forward. Dogs are a big part of our lives, and reflect community. I grew up in an urban area (Los Angeles), dogs were a part of our play. They were not kept inside. Ever. We need to step up and share our spaces. My dog is a huge part of my life. I take her with me 90% of the time, and she is a big girl. How great during the course of my day would it be for me to stop by an actual DOG PARK and let her play for an hour? Not to mention the fact that these visits enable humans to socialize, which is something we all need more of. My dog is a part of my family, plain and simple. I will fight for her rights, and I always vote accordingly. You have only to look at the number of people with dogs in their lives to know that I am not alone in this passion. It's time to approve this park for Dog	Aug 28, 2012 10:19:16 AM	71.131.17.238
4	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Carrie Gustafson, Esq.	cgusta@yahoo.com	7535 Sunkist Drive	94605	To the members of the Oakland City Council, Lake Merritt is a treasure that all residents of Oakland should be able to enjoy. This includes those of us with 3 dogs – likely rescues from the Oakland and area shelters – for whom it is otherwise difficult to enjoy. It's great that the paths around the Lake are crowded with walkers and joggers. Rather than jostling for space – a bother for both parties – how wonderful to have an area for the dogs to play ASAP. Kind regards, Carrie Gustafson	Aug 28, 2012 10:10:02 AM	67.164.43.7
3	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Annalisa Tay	Annalisa_Tay@gap.com	678 Rosal Ave	94610	Please approve the plan for our little dog park. I live in the neighborhood and see so many dogs. I need a place for my furry children to run and play. It would improve our property value to have a place in Oakland for dogs to play. Oakland is the most unfriendly dog city around. It makes me sad that we don't have a safe place for my little dog to run and jump and play. This plan has been on the books for so long. We have waited and waited and are now on our second dog and still waiting. I drive past this park everyday and there is rarely anyone using this small end of the park. Thank you for considering our park and the well being of our furry friends. Annalisa Tay	Aug 28, 2012 10:09:52 AM	206.16.32.135
2	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Pamela Blair	pamelab@synth.org	1019 Keith Avenue	94708	To the City Council, I am a psychologist who is seeing someone who lives in the Lake Merritt vicinity. She is somewhat of a shut-in, but loves dogs, and I believe it would be both to the benefit of her mental as well as her physical health to be able to go out to a dog park. It would motivate her more than just walking to the park. I highly support the idea of a dog park at Lake Merritt. Pamela Blair, Ph.D.	Aug 28, 2012 09:57:58 AM	108.78.248.84
1	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Sam Lewis	salewis@gmail.com	Bieh's Ct, Oakland	94618	I'd love a dog area at lake merritt! I go there all the time but a place to let my dog off leash to play would be wonderful. Think about it!	Aug 28, 2012 09:48:37 AM	128.3.131.136

9	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Chris Bohnert	bohnert@sonic.net	2939 Glascock St., Oakland	94601	We need more dog parks! I'm 62 and live with my 2 dogs. They provide me with companionship and fun! You should have one move in with you! Seriously, dogs are great. So, Oakland has a problem with their dog policy. We can't even bring a dog into an Oakland park. On leash or off! Just silly. Dog owners are the folks you want to welcome to the parks. Dog parks give us much needed mn and play space for our dogs. Dog owners walk the streets with their pets. We know our neighbors and we know our neighborhoods. The opening of a new dog park is a win win. We get to play with our dogs and you get to have us out in the parks watching and being engaged, and for the most part being just plain happy folks. What could be better? Don't listen to a bunch of scared for whatever reason, not in my backyard, "no" people. The dog park was planned, vetted and accepted as a good idea... has been for a long time. Let's not mess it up now. Vote yes for our new dog park. We need it! Thanks for your time. Thanks for all of the work you do. Thanks for listening to our side on this too. Hope we win!	Aug 28, 2012 01:03:28 PM	50.136.156.103
8	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Jeanet Moore	jeanet.moore@gmail.com	Lee St and Van Buren	94610	To Whom It May Concern: 1 request that consideration be made with regards to approving the construction of a dog park in the lake merritt area. While I understand that certain people may be sensitive, building a dog park in our area would FINALLY acknowledge the reality of the neighborhood we in which we reside. Many people have dogs, with no place to safely allow them to socialize and play. The neighborhood is composed of mostly apartments, and it would only make sense to build a dog park so that many of the areas that you would prefer to be dog free could actually be dog free! There is a dog park in the Claremont area that is 5 feet away from the children's playground, and it has been there for years. In addition, I have never once heard of any negative events occurring due to the close proximity of the dog park to the playground. There is no foundational basis behind the prevention of the construction of the dog park once you remove the irrational feelings that those against this initiative have. Therefore I recommend that approval be made to build a dog park for us! I appreciate your time. Jeanet A Moore	Aug 28, 2012 11:57:41 AM	199.75.183.84
7	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Robert Petersen	robert@gpep.com	Eastman Avenue	94619	Dear Council Member: The addition of the Lake Merritt dog park will be frequently used by the local community. The area proposed is seldom used by anyone. You can verify this for yourself by looking each time you drive by. The fact is that a large portion of our community include dogs as part of their families and need/want a place to take them. The space is already approved by Oakland for this purpose and is likely the highest and best use. Dogs and their dog owners are a critical part of the fabric of our community and they are voters. Dogs and their dog owners are happier with exercise and prefer to be able to enjoy the parks that we pay taxes for like everyone else. Please approve this much needed addition to our community. It is right to share with all tax payers and voters and not make the parks exclusively for residents without dogs. I ask that you approve the proposed Lake Merritt dog play area. Kind regards, Robert Petersen 510-878-3302	Aug 28, 2012 11:21:48 AM	108.200.51.89
6	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Desiree Therianos	dtherianos@gmail.com	5131 Crockett Place	94602	To Whom It May Concern: I am in favor of building a devoted area for pets in the Lake Merritt area. I think a dog park would be a great addition to the community for several reasons; a) it's in the Master Plan-- Build It Now b) makes a great neighborhood meeting place c) makes better use of park space, d) it's the ONLY place already approved by the city e) it's fair to share the green space at the Lake--almost 100 acres and we're asking for a half acre here and now Thanks for your consideration. Desiree Therianos	Aug 28, 2012 10:34:06 AM	204.14.158.226

15	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Joshua Cox	joshuajcox@gmail.com	270 Wayne #102	94606	Councilors; Please adhere to the Master Plan and build our dog park. We all need it - even those of us who don't have dogs. Dog parks are good for communities and encourage responsible dog ownership. With the incredible number of dogs walking Lake Merritt now, we need a community location where dog owners can encounter one another, be role models for good ownership, and exercise their dogs. Well exercised animals are quieter, better socialized, and generally better behaved, making them better neighbors and community members. And dogs parks, despite claims to the contrary, are quiet. Go to Point Isabel to see what I mean. Dog parks also draw people and money to an area. When the dog park is completed, the Lake Merritt Cafe will see increased business as will the Saturday Market and the stretch of businesses along Lakeshore and Grand. Point Isabel is arguably in the middle of nowhere and it's spawned a healthy business at its feet. This is so important. Don't let NIMBYs halt the progress the Lake Merritt neighborhood is so obviously enjoying. Thanks, Joshua Cox 270 Wayne #102 Oakland CA 94606 707-354-4642	Aug 28, 2012 10:34:26 PM	99.57.26.15
14	please allow the dog park. there are more of us than you know. most of my friends do not join in but would use the park. Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	angela green	lapetitefeuir@juno.com	3930 edwards ave oakland		i wrote my message above. thanks angela	Aug 28, 2012 02:46:23 PM	71.131.180.91
13	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Victor Weisser	oaktownvic@comcast.net	38 Bowles Place	94610	I support the creation of a dog park at Lake Merritt, I've lived in Oakland since 1989 and there are few places within reach for those of us with dogs to take our pets out for some recreation where they can play with other critters off leash. I understand this has been in the Master Plan for years, and is the only place already approved by the City of Oakland. the dog park would use less than 1/2 of 1% of the green space available at the lake, and would be a great addition to the City of Oakland amenities. Thank you for your consideration Victor Weisser 38 Bowles Place Oakland, 94610 P.S. 1 vote.	Aug 28, 2012 02:20:40 PM	67.169.63.84
12	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Roman De Sota	muirole@gmail.com	4100 Barner Ave.	94602	Please approve the dog park! With limited space for dogs we need to create a safe and controlled environment for our dogs to be with their owners.	Aug 28, 2012 01:59:24 PM	173.11.83.102
11	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Amie Morelli	morelliab@gmail.com	268 Euclid Avenue	94610		Aug 28, 2012 01:42:54 PM	72.18.227.2
10	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Krin Morelli	krinmp@gmail.com	Euclid ave (and Grand ave)	94610	The debate regarding this dog park has gone on long enough! I have heard the reasons that the dog park is being argued, however, I have not heard one reason that actually makes sense. I am tired of paying taxes on a park that I cannot enjoy with my whole family. I am tired of driving my dog to Alameda every time I want to let him run. Enough is enough. There is enough space in that park to share. Everyone can be happy. APPROVE the dog park!!!! Please!	Aug 28, 2012 01:25:37 PM	67.169.90.205

20	Please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Daniel Gonzales	dkgonzales@gmail.com	2316 Lakeshore Ave, Unit 5	94606	Dear City Council, After living in the Bay Area for 10 years, I purchased my first home here 2 years ago when I discovered how much the area had improved with Measure DD & the new Master Plan project that has and is being implemented. About 9 months after moving in I got my first dog as well with the anticipation that there would soon be a dog park a few blocks away that we could enjoy. I was very disappointed to learn that it has since run into opposition and that the City Council is considering not completing the park. I work from home and spend many hours over looking the lake each day. There are people jogging, walking, picnicking AND literally hundreds, if not thousands, of dogs that walk past my window each and every day. There is a large community that has been awaiting and would enjoy the dog park. In my condo building alone (2316-2324 Lakeshore) there are 22 units, 25% of them have dogs! In addition, the use of the dog park would only consume a traction of the total acreage around the lake, much of which already does not allow dogs. Please stick to the original plan and give dogs and their owners a place to congregare and enjoy the neighborhood without the restricti	Sep 07, 2012 08:59:06 AM	69.181.50.207
19	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Philip La Barbera	philiplab@sbcglobal.net	4500 Fleming Avenue	94619	I enjoy dogs and I enjoy seeing people enjoy their dogs—and the dogs enjoying their interactions with other dogs and people, children to seniors. There should be more dog friendly areas in Oakland parks and regional parks. Please create the Lakeview Dog Park.	Sep 07, 2012 08:35:50 AM	75.0.177.233
18	Time 10 APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Janet Mieu	janetmieu@hotmail.com	479 E 15th St. Oakland	94606	Dear City council, I hope the dog park will be approved cause Lake Merritt is a beautiful place for humans and dogs to enjoy. Now a day, dogs are a part of us and they are like a family member. A lot of people have dogs in their houses now, which is a good thing cause that means less stray dogs and less dogs in the shelters. Dogs need a place to play as much as our kids. We are only asking tor 1/2 acre out of the 100 acre for dogs and humans to enjoy together and we don't think that's too much to ask for. Hope the council understand. Thank you for your precious time reading this letter. Sincerely, Janet 09/05/2012	Sep 05, 2012 11:03:31 AM	70.237.156.222
17	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Tammara Katsikas	tgk-art@atlnet	Greenly and Keller	94605	Dear City Council Members: As a citizen of Oakland and life time dog owner, I urge you to give final approval to the Lakeview Family Dog Park. I take my dogs to dog parks 4 to 5 days per week. Because Oakland has not been a friendly place for dog owners with the few dog parks under freeways, on cement, or closed much of the time, I primarily take my dogs to the Alameda Dog Park. When I am out and about going the the ALAMEDA Dog Park, I also conduct my other errands, such as grocery shopping, visiting the pharmacy, going to restaurants, etc. IN ALAMEDA. It is just easler and uses less gas...I also end up buying my gas while IN ALAMEDA. If there was a nice dog park in Oakland, I would frequent it and also do my errands in Oakland while in the Lake Merritt area. I know I am not alone. I meet many, many Oakland residents while at the Alameda Dog Park. It just makes good business sense to keep tax paying Oakland residents in Oakland, Its good for the economy, its good for residents, its good for Oakland business owners, and it takes nothing significant away from other non-dog owning residents who share this beautiful park. Thank you tor your time and hopefully yr	Aug 29, 2012 12:58:37 PM	70.231.247.139
16	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Mary Ann Huckabay	Huckabay@synth.org	1019 Keith Ave., Berkeley.	94708	Lake Merritt is such a wonderful regional asset. It could be even better if we had a doggie play area there. Please approve it: a) it's in the Master Plan-- Build it Now b) makes a great neighborhood meeting place c) makes better use of park space, d) it's the ONLY place already approved by the city e) it's fair to share the green space al the Lake-almost 100 acres and we're asking for a half acre here and now Thank you, Mary Ann Huckabay	Aug 29, 2012 08:57:15 AM	76.21.65.131

26	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Jose Arredondo	kalsi@comcast.net	2735 Pleasant Street	94602	As a lifelong resident of Oakland, I adopted a baby beagle 15 years ago only to learn that I could not take her to any park in Oakland. The dog park in North Oakland was not a good dog park back then. I live near Dimond Park and even Lake Merritt was off limits. I was very disappointed, but understand that some dog owners are not responsible. For ten years I went to Point Isabel in Richmond. My beloved pet died this past June. I hope in the near future Oakland can get a respectable dog park for the people and dog owners of our city.	Sep 08, 2012 07:40:57 AM	76.102.121.114
25	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Carol Bernau	cbernau@sbcglobal.net	Robinson Drive/Joaquin Miller	94602	I am privileged to live near a dog park at J.M. Park. I believe all residents of Oakland --and their best friends--dogs!!! should have an opportunity for fresh air and exercise in a controlled environment. Isn't it better for dogs to play in a space reserved for them, when they are off-leash and happy -- than walking on sidewalks on leashes? (Leashes makes some dogs more aggressive.) Also, people of all ages can enjoy watching dogs socialize and play. And dog owners have an opportunity to socialize and meet other dog owners and even develop strong friendships. Dog parks aren't just about dogs!!! The park around Lake Merritt has oodles of space; making some space for "just dogs" makes good sense. It is in the Oakland Master Plan, and it's high time this park were approved! Thanks for listening.	Sep 07, 2012 10:29:30 AM	75.36.175.203
24	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Allison Gossard	allison.gossard@gmail.com	1238 E. 33rd Street	94608	We have been waiting anxiously for the Lakeview family dog park to be built. We are a family with a 3.5 year old and a 6 year old dog. And we love to use the lake area, but really want something for the dog to do too. We would actually be able to walk to the dog park, as opposed our other dog park options which mean driving. I think this park would really serve the community and keep our dogs a happy! Best, Allison	Sep 07, 2012 10:25:54 AM	76.233.221.35
23	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	lisa haage	lhaage@hotmail.com	Colby at Claremont		Please approve the Lake Merritt dog park. Dog parks are a truly integrated, social place for Oaklanders to meet and mingle. They encourage a broad spectrum of citizens to get out and about, which helps the whole community, and allows for a whole other sector of Oakland citizens to use parks and open space. This is the only area which has already been approved by the city and if not approved, will deprive a large segment of Oaklanders the opportunity to use this vital resource.	Sep 07, 2012 10:07:59 AM	67.119.192.41
22	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Simon Becerra	simonbecerra@gmail.com	1077 ardmore avenue	94610	We disparately need a Dog Park in our neighborhood. Thank you.	Sep 07, 2012 10:06:35 AM	57.116.238.191
21	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Monty Lee	mlee23@hotmail.com	villanova lane and manzanita	94611	All of the dogs in our neighborhood would love to travel to Lake Merritt and enjoy one of Oakland's jewels. Since all of the necessary reviews have been passed, Master Plan = ok, city approval = ok, we should move forward and not look back! The area proposed for the dog park is de minimus compared to the overall area and would enhance the park's use by all, including those without dogs. Ever see how those without pets enjoy greeting someone else's pet and how pet owners love to show off their four legged friends. Let the dogs have a play area at Lakeview.	Sep 07, 2012 09:09:51 AM	108.91.25.145

35	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Aileen Linney	aileenlinney@gmail.com	1710 BRANDON ST.	94611		Oct 04, 2012 04:26:35 PM	98.210.29.223
						Please consider approving the addition of a dog park for Lake Merritt. Dog parks bring the community together—the interactions between people and their pets actually encourage people to TALK to each other and not just walk past each other. This ultimately lays the foundation to begin to care about each other, continuing to nurture a strong community in Oakland. This space is already in the master plan, please build it now. It is the only place already approved by the city and it is only fair to share the green space at the lake (how much space to the geese and birds take up!) Even John Stewart and his team see the value! http://video.msnbc.msn.com/rock-center/49203156 Thank you for your consideration. My golden retriever and my family hope to be able to visit Lake Merritt together soon! Kari Sachs	Sep 28, 2012 04:44:14 PM	67.170.192.151
34	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Kari Sachs	kcsachs@gmail.com	121 Embarcadero West	94607		Sep 28, 2012 04:44:14 PM	67.170.192.151
33	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Julia Vaughan	julia.m.vaughan@gmail.com	968 43rd St		Dear City Council, I support the proposed dog park at Lake Merritt. Having an enclosed, separate space for dogs will be a huge benefit to the community. With such a large area already reserved for children, there is plenty of space to go around. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Julia Vaughan	Sep 26, 2012 07:57:13 AM	50.0.91.72
32	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Cynthia Ott	cynprowax@gmail.com	3922 Canon Ave #7	94602		Sep 23, 2012 10:26:26 AM	67.180.46.135
31	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Diane Tebault	goldengaterescue@sbcglobal.net	4016 Canon Avenue	94602	Why Oakland continues to be the last Bay Area city to acknowledge that dog owners are a large voting block really amazes me. There is a wonderful dog park in the Master Plan. Why Oakland continues to delay and delay approval is not clear to me. Every time I see a tennis court, baseball field, soccer field, play area, it infuriates me: My dog and I are absolutely segregated from using any of these areas, and yet Oakland continues to act as if they don't have any obligation to dog-owning citizens. You know we don't ALL own pitbulls, you idiots.	Sep 22, 2012 10:10:28 AM	71.138.141.0
30	This won't take much of your time.	Kacie Barrett	Kacieeface@gmail.com	21st and Linden	94607	Hello, I'm a full time 21-year old student living in Oakland, very close to Lake Merritt. I moved here from Michigan to attend school. Well, a little over 2 months ago, I drove to Lake Merritt with my 2 dogs, Husky and Boarder Collie, and I couldn't believe that there were signs posted around the lake prohibiting dogs, even on leashes. It's time for reconsideration on this topic. Yes, there is a child's playground close to the area. Maybe that area could be kept dog-free, while the rest of the grass area and sidewalks would serve great purpose for dog walking. Afraid of poop being left behind? Offer a Pet Waste Disposal System every 200 feet. They don't cost much, maybe you can get a sponsorship or donations out of them. Make it beneficial for the city in numerous ways. Thank you for your time, and thank you for serving this city. Kacie Barrett	Sep 19, 2012 01:42:54 PM	24.4.141.97
29	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Terri	Mcintoshterri@yahoo.com	2424 linden street	94607	Inam writing on behalf of the dog park near the lake, I think it would be a good idea for one to be there, they have a nice one in alameda. I am a animal lover, and I think we should have a pate for the dogs to be able to run around and play, especially if their owners work all day and if they are in an apartment all cooped up.	Sep 12, 2012 06:41:04 PM	108.81.171.120
28	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Terri	Mcintoshterri@yahoo.com	2424 linden street	94607	Inam writing on behalf of the dog park near the lake, I think it would be a good idea for one to be there, they have a nice one in alameda. I am a animal lover, and I think we should have a pate for the dogs to be able to run around and play, especially if their owners work all day and if they are in an apartment all cooped up.	Sep 12, 2012 06:41:03 PM	108.81.171.120
27	lake merritt allowables	dayyan lord	dayyan@gmail.com	1389 jefferson st	94612	Please let dogs in the park. I feel that it creates a friendlier community vibe.	Sep 12, 2012 10:20:50 AM	204.90.10.4

39	Our dogs are looking for a place to play close to home...	Scott Shepard	scottshepard@pacbell.net	373 Staten Ave	94610	a roundtrip travel time of an hour. This makes a trip to the "local" dog park with my dog Tucker impossible during the week. Tucker's favorite thing to do is meet other dogs and play fetch, something he cannot do during our usual walk/jog around the lake. While I love the ability to jog around the lake with my dog, I know his life (and mine) can improve a hundred fold with one simple change, a dog park close to Lake Merritt. I know that I am not the only dog owner in the area that thinks a dog park here in the greater Lake Merritt neighborhood could greatly improve the quality of life for dogs and their owners. I know some citizens are tentative to allow dogs off leash near a childrens park, but that is why the dog park is fenced in; so dogs can not freely mingle with humans on the outside. Not only that, but a dog owner responsible enough to take their dog to a dog park to exercise and socialize is responsible enough to not bring an aggressive dog out in public. I can only hope that my fellow dog owners are writing you now with the same wish that I have. Please listen to the wishes those citizens a	Oct 04, 2012 07:53:51 PM	24,130,254.152
38	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Kathleen J. Smith	bike70th@gmail.com	429-31 Euclid Ave	94610	I do not own a dog. But I am having a HARD time trying to understand why dog lovers/owners can't have their fair share of the green space at the lake. I have seen and heard many of the dog owners get involved when the park was first changed - and their hopes and expectations were that they'd have some place (within walking distance) to walk their dogs. There are a number of local residents who are not able to walk all the way to Linda Ave (for example) to walk their dog. The Lake is close to them, and they have urged city councils to create a place for them to walk their dogs (close to where they live). Being able to walk down the street to the park gives them an opportunity to meet other animal owners and makes a lovely place to meet one another. Commone guys! Give the dog lovers a chance. They pick up after their dogs, they are good citizens, they have fought for so long for a dog park - They deserve a half acre --- one half acre out of 100 acres what is your problem? Get real and give them their space too. Please.	Oct 04, 2012 06:45:42 PM	108.203.137.1
37	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Kathleen J. Smith	bike70th@gmail.com	429-31 Euclid Ave	94610	I do not own a dog. But I am having a HARD time trying to understand why dog lovers/owners can't have their fair share of the green space at the lake. I have seen and heard many of the dog owners get involved when the park was first changed - and their hopes and expectations were that they'd have some place (within walking distance) to walk their dogs. There are a number of local residents who are not able to walk all the way to Linda Ave (for example) to walk their dog. The Lake is close to them, and they have urged city councils to create a place for them to walk their dogs (close to where they live). Being able to walk down the street to the park gives them an opportunity to meet other animal owners and makes a lovely place to meet one another. Commone guys! Give the dog lovers a chance. They pick up after their dogs, they are good citizens, they have fought for so long for a dog park - They deserve a half acre --- one half acre out of 100 acres what is your problem? Get real and give them their space too. Please.	Oct 04, 2012 06:44:09 PM	108.203.137.1
36	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Appallonia Rodrigues	diamondapples07@yahoo.com	Brentwood	94513	I know it stated that you must live in Oakland to participate in this review board, but I find it stunning that you have not approved a dog park for the many dog owners in your area. I'm new to this area and the town I moved from has many parks, one small park every couple of blocks and one big park for each neighborhood. Dogs are allowed at these parks and they even have bags for doggie-doo pickup. We also have dog parks, quite a few and there have not been any known incidents with these parks being next to childrens parks. I have heard more incidents happening in neighborhoods. For example: a kid playing in their own yard, neighbors dog gets out and attacks the kid, but nothing on our dog parks. I'm not saying support those who mistreat their animals and abuse them, but what I am saying is show some support to your fellow animal lovers. Why is it faking such a long time to have a park designated for the people and their animals/family members? How many of you have a dog and wish you could take them on doggie play dates or to the park to get some fresh air and running room. How many of you have animals who feel lonely or would want to go meet new animal lovers who share your	Oct 04, 2012 05:38:46 PM	75.210.206.30

45	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Alan Anzalone	aanz@mindspring.com	916 46th Street	94608	The city council needs to approve the Lake Merritt dog park. There are very few dog parks in Oakland, and the downtown/Lake Merritt area is sorely lacking considering the number of dog owners in the area. It will be easily accessible to residents who don't own private transportation. Thanks for approving this park at soon as possible.	Oct 07, 2012 09:21:09 PM	75.61.134.152
44	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Noemi Sichennan	nsichennan@gmail.com	3012 Eastman Avenue	94619	Dear Oakland City Council, I'm writing to express my support of the creation of a dog run at Lake Merritt. This would be a wonderful addition to the city, allotting just 1/2 an acre to area residents and their dogs. Having a dog brings me great joy and a sense of safety in a city that oftentimes feels unsafe; I know this is true of many Oakland residents. We have a responsibility to care for our dogs, and allowing residents and dogs a safe place to exercise would be a great step towards fulfilling this responsibility. The vast majority of the green space at the Lake would remain untouched; a new group of residents would have a place to gather; and our dogs would be well-cared for. Please allow this park to move forward as soon as possible. Thank you, Noemi Sicherman	Oct 07, 2012 06:45:20 AM	98.248.112.150
43	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Emily Markham	enetmarkham@gmail.com	553 Arballo Drive	94132	As a professional dog trainer, the importance of exercise in dogs is critical in a well-behaved, well-socialized dog. The dogs that are aggressive and fearful are those that are stuck indoors without any space to run. This is vitally important for the whole community!	Oct 06, 2012 01:20:56 PM	98.210.169.57
42	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	SARAH	SARAHHOPKINSJENKINS@GMAIL.COM	819 21ST STREET, OAKLAND CA	94607	I strongly support the Lake Merritt dog park. Oakland has so few dog parks, but so many new residents are moving to Oakland from San Francisco and other areas precisely because they have a dog and want larger places which they can afford for themselves and their dogs. Dog owners are good for the community, when they take their dogs out they meet other owners, which fosters community. This is unique, usually in cities, people stay with the "own kind" (what ever that might be), but when you have dogs you find the elderly mixing with the young, people of different wealth backgrounds mixing, different ethnicities, etc. In a diverse city such as Oakland, having avenues where different types of people can come together is really important. There is a great need for ALOT more dog parks, but this one would be a good start. Sometime I can travel to the nice dogparks at Berkeley such as Cesear Chavez and elsewhere with my dog, but more often than not I need to take my dog on a quick walk afterwork. The disabled or people without cars can not ever get to such parks. So where to go? Lake Merritt doesn't allow dogs, none of the community parks near my house allow dogs, the ne	Oct 05, 2012 11:10:29 AM	23.24.221.162
41	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Elise Perelman	empearts@gmail.com	458 Alcatraz Ave	94609	Dear council members, It is imperative you APPROVE the dog park at Lake Merritt! The dog park is in the Master Plan and previously approved which should make your job that much easier. Dog Parks have been proven to INCREASE revenue for the surrounding area as it creates an awesome neighborhood meeting place. The park currently consists of 100 acres and the dog park would be a mere fraction of that. coming in at 1/2 acre. The dog park is a wonderful addition for FAMILIES as well. I have two small kids, ages 3 and 6, and we have an adorable Boston Terrier named Roxie Shazzam we adopted from Oakland Animal Services. We have one measly dog park in Rockridge and the reason why we love it is because the dog park is RIGHT NEXT to the playground. It's perfect! However, it gets cold standing under an overpass. We would like to be able to break up our routine and head over to Lake Merritt and enjoy the beautiful park that's not in our direct neighborhood. The Lake Merritt dog park is imperative because it makes better use of the park space and it is the ONLY space in all of Oakland that is already approved for a dog park. What are our canine loving Oakland cit	Oct 05, 2012 08:39:56 AM	24.23.246.23
40	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Sandra Wittenbrock	sandar@gmail.com	336 Portland Ave	94606	Dear Council Members, There are many dog owners and dog lovers in Oakland. Most parks have a "no dog" policy. Putting in a dog park by Lake Merritt would benefit many Oaklanders.	Oct 05, 2012 07:59:14 AM	128.3.10.149

54	Please please please APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Jenna Whitman	jenna_whitman@yahoo.com	1570 Jackson SL	94612	I am a dog owner but I also hike, jog, and ride my bicycle all over Oakland - and all over the Bay Area. Walkers and bikers have access to so much more of Oakland. By contrast, there are only a few places that dogs can go off leash - a handful of off-leash fenced dog parks and a few trails and recreational areas. Dog owners are not asking for a lot of space - it's a fraction of what is available for people to walk, jog and play in the City. It would be wonderful if the City would approve one more small space so that dogs and their owners who live around Lake Merritt can be healthy and happy, just like the non-dog people, without having to drive. Thank you!	Oct 12, 2012 07:25:17 AM	67,164.42.43
53	PLEASE APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Susanna Gordon	spgordon@earthlink.net	Trestle Glen Rd at Creed	94610	I live a bit more than a mile east of Lakeshore. From our house, there is no dog park within walking distance. We sometimes walk our dog to Lakeshore on weekends to get coffee, but since there is no place there to play with him, we more often drive to a dog play area (usually up Joaquin Miller or over to Piedmont on Linda) and forgo doing business on Lakeshore. We would go nearly every weekend day if there were a dog play area at Lakeview, and would likely stop also for breakfast and coffee. The half acre proposed for the Lakeview dog park is currently empty the vast majority of the time. I've been there periodically with my kids at the kid play area, and almost never see anyone using that grass area. Please approve the Lakeview family dog park - it will be good for the environment (reducing unnecessary driving out of the neighborhood in search of a dog play area), good for the local economy (encouraging local dog owners to visit and shop on Lakeshore), and good for the neighborhood (increasing use of the beautiful space and foot traffic to/from Lakeshore) Thanks! Susanna	Oct 11, 2012 10:53:24 PM	98,248.13.75
52	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Benjamin Westheimer	bwestheimer@gmail.com	47 Chatsworth Ct.	94611	I am all for a dog park in this location. Why should local residents and their dogs have to go miles away to reach another dog park? Since it has been approved already why not bring it to fruition? Sincerely, Benjamin Westheimer	Oct 11, 2012 09:16:50 PM	76,218.102.172
51	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Shelby Robertson	shelby.e.robertson@gmail.com	459 Stow Ave.	94606	Please approve the Lake Merritt Dog Park. My dog Jimmy Dean and I walk around the lake every day and never see anyone using that space. Even if multiple parties should want to share the park, that should be allowed - even for dog owners! We deserve a place to enjoy! We have to drive to Alameda to go to the small dog park there. There is nothing in walking distance. Sincerely, Shelby, Jimmy Dean, and Anders	Oct 11, 2012 08:59:21 PM	99,42.141.139
50	why we need dog paks	Glenn Woroch	woroch@sbcglobal.net	28 Woodside Glen Court	94602	Dog parks ... 1) Create community among dog owners 2) Congregate dogs in one place What more could you want?	Oct 11, 2012 08:56:25 PM	71,132.196.206
49	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Julie Skoler	julieskoler@gmail.com	657 Capell Street	94610	City Council, please approve of the Lake Merritt dog park. Make the judicious decision to share the green space at the lake. It's only 1/2 an acre of almost 100 acres! It makes a great neighborhood meeting place, strengthening community, and it is in the master plan, so please build it now. Thank you, Julie Skoler	Oct 11, 2012 08:29:21 PM	99.47.11.130
48	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Beth Davis	highhopehaven@yahoo.com	434 Grizzly Peak Blvd	94708	Having just moved here from VA one of the truly unique and wonderful things about this area is the ability for recreation that includes dogs. This park enables people to enjoy the outdoors and have fun with their dogs at the same time. Why not continue to share this space as there is enough room for everyone!	Oct 09, 2012 04:37:36 AM	70,197,1,61
47	APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park - ALREADY	Ellen Gierson	ellenrocs@gmail.com	Opal and 42 Street	94609	Dear Council members, Why haven't you all approved a half acre space at the Lake for a Dog Park. It is especially irritating that you have yet to vote yes on this park that is the only place ALREADY APPROVED by the city for the dog park. It is in the Master Plan and it should be built NOW. It would make such a great neighborhood meeting space and it would also make such better use of the park. Don't you think that it is about time to share the green space at Lake Merritt for dog owners? I do! Ellen Gierson 4175 Opal Street 94609 510-593-8678	Oct 08, 2012 06:00:00 PM	70,36,234,60
46	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Ellen Starbird	ellen_s@mindspring.com	916 46th St, Oakland, CA	94608	I would like to see a dog play area in the Lake Merritt park. It is a lovely park, and would be safer to visit with my pet. -Ellen Starbird	Oct 08, 2012 02:05:07 PM	75.61.129.122

61	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Maya Cohn	mayacon@comcast.net	372 Adams Street	94610	Let people and dogs express their natural joy! I visited a fabulous dog park in Vancouver...and we really need something like that here at Lake Shore/Grand/McArthur. It creates community, the dogs are socialized and ecstatically happy with their "buds" -- plus the dogpark was beautiful. Some large trees grew in the midst of a practical and beautiful gravel running area -- large enough for playing frisbee with a few chairs and tables inside for the animal guardians. On the borders the fence was covered with gorgeous plantings with grass for the dogs inside (a potty area). Nearby, outside the park, sunbathers enjoyed the lawn and benches. We are short changing ourselves when we don't have this AMENITY close at hand. There are many dog owners in the areas around the park. Let's make life pleasant for ALL. Let's get on this and make it happen! Wait til you see all the wonderful people who will show up! And the dogs will express their natural joy! If you were a dog owner, what would you want for yourself?	Oct 17, 2012 09:33:36 AM	67.188.180.63
60	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Amie Morelli	morelliab@gmail.com	268 Euclid Avenue	94610	I have to drive to Alameda every morning so my dog can enjoy a dog park. I like blocks from this beautiful space that is big enough to house a dog park and still have free space for others to use. We have plenty of wonderful dogs in Oakland that need a dog park. It's the right thing to do. Thank you for your consideration, Amie	Oct 16, 2012 01:22:09 PM	72.18.227.2
59	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Hollyce Foster	hollys_hounds@yahoo.com	326 Athol Ave	94606	As a dog owner and professional dog handler, I believe it's necessary for dog owners to have a place to take their dogs to socialize properly off leash. There isn't a place anywhere here in the Lake Merritt area to do this and subsequently I see an awful lot of leash aggression around the lake's neighborhoods. *****Let's share this space!***** *The kids will love watching and learning about the dogs! I've seen this happen a ton at Hardy Dog Park. :-) *People will get to know their neighbors as they become acquainted through their dogs at this park! *Dog owners who use this park will likely walk down to the various shops on lakeshore and grand to spend their money! Please, let this dog park happen... it's time for us dog folks to have a place for us here by the lake too. Many Thanks- Hollyce of Holly's Hounds (China Hill)	Oct 15, 2012 09:14:18 PM	76.218.71.150
58	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Elizabeth Endean	blair_hall@yahoo.com	5626 Estates Drive	94619	a) It's in the Master Plan-- Build it Now b) makes a great neighborhood meeting place c) makes better use of park space, d) it's the ONLY place already approved by the city e) It's fair to share the green space at the Lake-almost 100 acres and we're asking for a half acre here and now	Oct 13, 2012 05:47:42 PM	67.164.39.44
57	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Nancy Hinds	nmhinds@att.net	287 Covington Street	94605	The dog park is already in the Master Plan and it needs to be Built Now. This is a better use of park space, and it's the ONLY place already approved by the city. My dog recently passed away, but walking her several times a day and allowing her access to a dog park was very healthy for her and me. It's only fair to share the green space at the Lake and only a half an acre, of the almost 100 acres, is being requested.	Oct 13, 2012 02:32:34 PM	99.89.4.255
56	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Victoria Schwartz	victoriasca@gmail.com	63rd shattuck	94609	Please give dogs some room in Lake Merritt parks! Victoria	Oct 13, 2012 01:10:21 PM	99.73.89.113
55	Please let dog owners have just half an acre and APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Deldi Reyes	deldi40@gmail.com	32nd st and Adeline	94608	Dear City Council, I just walked my two greyhounds around Lake Merritt last weekend. When I got to the "no dogs allowed" section, I stayed clear. It would be great to have just a half acre amidst all that green space just to let my two dogs off leash. It's in the plan that the Council has approved and our voices count too. Thank you.	Oct 12, 2012 08:44:18 PM	67.169.58.191

66	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Jeff Ferren	jeff_ferren@yahoo.com	Haddon and Prospect	94610	I am writing to support the Lakeview Dog Play Area and urge you to vote to finally create this great community resource. The dog park is in the city's Master Plan; there are no other dog parks already approved by the city. The dog park will make great use of the park space and is a much needed neighborhood meeting place. Please give people a reason to stay in Oakland instead of going to Alameda or Piedmont to exercise their dogs - and spend their money in the Grand/Lakeshore area at the same time.	Oct 17, 2012 03:30:00 PM	64.71.2.198
65	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Ellie Gladstone	elglads1@yahoo.com	615 Haddon Road	94610	Hear City Council members, I write to urge you to approve the long-planned Lakeview Dog Play Area. We have lived in various neighborhoods around Lake Merritt for over a decade - for most of that time with our wonderful dog Hattie. I distinctly remember when talk of a dog park near Lake Merritt started and we were incredibly excited to finally hear that a dog park would be coming to the intersection of MacArthur and Lakeshore. Rather than driving to Berkeley or Richmond to give Hattie off leash exercise - and often shopping there afterwards - we could just walk a few blocks and let her run free in our own neighborhood. Hattie died last year at the ripe age of 16 years; the long delays in this process mean that she won't get to enjoy the park. But there are scores of apartment dwelling dogs like her - and their people - that will benefit from the park. The Lakeview Dog Play Area is in the Master Plan; and it is the only place already approved by the city. It is time to finally put this park space to good use by building an attractive neighborhood meeting place. Half an acre is not too much for dogs to ask for, especially when they are banned from the other 100 acres of the Lake Merritt park area. Please don't let	Oct 17, 2012 03:20:39 PM	64.71.2.198
64	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Catie Magee	caliemagee@gmail.com	9th St. @ 28th Ave.	94606	Hello! I would like to express my full support for the Lakeview Dog Park! As a new dog owner who lives just on the other side of the lake, we take our dog to Lake Merritt all the time for long mns around the lake on the amazing new loop path. We are aching for another dog park that is accessible to us as the closest one is up at Joaquin Miller Park. We have been so excited about this dog park as it makes a great meeting place for other friends and their dogs and a great stop off place on long mns with our dog. It's the only space approved by the city of Oakland, a city with a dearth of local dog parks. Please support the Lakeview Dog Play Area! Catie	Oct 17, 2012 01:39:43 PM	199.83.223.91
63	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Nancy Trunzo	cymbeline_74@yahoo.com	West Grand & Isabella	94609	I fully support an off leash dog play area at Lake Merritt. I walk my dog there often and it would be wonderful to have a place within walking distance of my house. Currently I have to pack the dog in the car to take her somewhere she can play with other dogs.	Oct 17, 2012 01:01:15 PM	98.248.126.20
62	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Justine Hirsch	toadtu@yahoo.com	Vermont Street and Mandana Ave	94610	Hello City Council, As a long-time resident of the area (and a devoted cat owner), I can't think of a better use for that corner of the Lakeview Park than putting in a dog park. There are "so many dogs" in my neighborhood that would benefit from this space being made for them. The sports field that is hotly contested for the space has plenty of room even after the corner of the field is used for a dog park. A half acre is not that much to ask for, in an area that is saturated by dogs with leash-only mies everywhere. We can maximize the uses for park-goers by adding this additional feature. And this area is the only area already approved by the city of Oakland for use as a dog park. Please help make this happen. It's only fair that the dogs and dog owners that make up this community are provided a place to call their own. Thanks!	Oct 17, 2012 12:47:33 PM	108.233.8.169

72	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Marguerite Amable	amablem@comcast.net	Lakeshore/Brooklyn	94606	I have written previously, but after viewing the debunking video I am completely mystified and demoralized. The blatant false statements that are the product of the group and/or individuals who are in opposition to our PRE-APPROVED dog park. I remain steadfast in my support of our park, I am still disabled and I would still appreciate some common sense from you, who I pay, in view of the preposterous anti-dog park rhetoric!	Oct 17, 2012 09:26:42 PM	69.181.74.49
71	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Olivia Ahn	omahn@hotmail.com	655 12th St		Dear Sirs and Madams: We need this dog park! There are so many dogs in the city that desperately need this ideal space to play, run, and socialize. I'm sure I'm not the only one who thinks that the Lake Merritt dog park would only add to Lake Merritt's beautiful setting. Also: a) it's in the Master Plan-- Build it Now b) makes a great neighborhood meeting place c) makes better use of park space, d) it's the ONLY place already approved by the city e) It's fair to share the green space at the Lake--almost 100 acres and we're asking for a half acre here and now it makes complete sense. Please make this happen soon! Sincerely, Olivia, Andrew and our dog Raven	Oct 17, 2012 09:23:23 PM	24.6.253.178
70	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Carole Levenson	carolest@jps.net	Bellevue Staten	94610	My dog is now 12 years old. We (my dog and I) have been waiting and working on this dog park for almost a decade. Will he live to see it? He is not allowed in the park, which is his front yard. The municipal ordinance on dogs in parks is ignored by many dog owners, and I am sure there are many who don't intend to be scofflaws. Having an accessible dog park near the lake would be a boon to both dog owners and their pets. I believe that Astro Park is an underutilized area that would benefit from the presence of a dog park, and the community would benefit from people socializing together with their dogs. Please let this dog park go forward! Thank you for your consideration. Carole Levenson 492 Staten Avenue #1103 Oakland 94610 510-834-2040	Oct 17, 2012 08:42:03 PM	99.42.140.219
69	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Amy Haas	geminl.amy@gmail.com	2944 Harrison St	94611	The City of Oakland strongly needs to approve the proposed Lake Merritt dog park! We have lived in this neighborhood for 3 years and frequently walk our dogs by the proposed dog park area and have never seen anyone actually using this area- it's always just empty space. Why not let the residents of Oakland, who so desperately want a dog park within walking distance of where they live, use this space? Dog parks are a great addition to any community, giving residents a place to let their dog be off-lease for a bit to socialize with other dogs and the dog owners get to socialize with other dog owners too - it would help to enhance a sense of community for the many people of Oakland who own dogs.	Oct 17, 2012 07:40:15 PM	99.57.27.35
66	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Krin Morelli	krinmp@gmail.com	268 Euclid Ave.	94610	Please approve this dog park so I can enjoy my tax dollars along with everyone else who has the opportunity to use this park	Oct 17, 2012 06:35:46 PM	99.204.85.65
67	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Susan Oldershaw	lollydah2002@yahoo.com	770 Prospect Ave	94610	Dear City Council Members- The long awaited Lakeview dog park would be such an asset to our neighborhood. For instance, for a senior citizen, like myself, it would be incentive to get out and get some exercise. I live within walking distance and it would be an opportunity to meet some other people in my neighborhood and socialize a bit. I think it is especially good that it would be adjacent to a children's playground as it would expose the children to animals in a very positive way. What a beautiful sight - for our Lake Merritt neighborhood! - children and animals! I am currently driving to Point Isabel or Alameda to go to the dog park. This would cut down on my driving, save gas, less pollution. Instead of stopping off to do a bit of shopping in Alameda, I would do it here on Lakeshore. For a city that is so prohibitive of dogs it seems only fair that we should have a dog park. I hope you will approve it. Thank you for reading this. Susan and Craig Okfershaw	Oct 17, 2012 06:15:04 PM	75.36.167.7

80	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Michael Ferraro	Bigwoody@ix.netcom.com	2499 Mavis Street	94601	You need to approve this dog park now. Look at the ODOG News Alert dated 2012 10-17 to see the video disclaiming the opposition to the dog park. People in the Lakeview area need a dog park there! Help those that can't ask for help themselves, our animals. Animals give us endless help and pleasure not to mention the unending love.	Oct 18, 2012 03:09:25 PM	99.24.219.166
79	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Leigh Korn	leighkom@gmail.com	65 Fairmount Avenue	94611	Dear Council, I strongly encourage you to approve the Lakeview Dog Play Area. Having the play area would be a great community builder for our area in Oakland. It makes a better use of park space and, frankly, it's only fair to share the green space at the Lake. There are nearly 100 acres and the Dog Play Area would only be a mere half an acre. I am a proud resident of Oakland and a proud dog owner. Please take what is already in the Master Plan and build it now. Thank you! Leigh Korn 66 Fairmount Avenue #218 Oakland, CA 94611	Oct 18, 2012 11:01:30 AM	67.217.174.4
78	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	John Nunes	jnunes@earthlink.net	305 Perkins	94610	I strongly support the dog park at Lake Merritt. I have two dogs and live nearby. The nearest space to take my dogs currently is in Piedmont. Dog parks help build community and give the dogs a place to exercise and mingle with other animals. It's a good thing.	Oct 18, 2012 09:22:06 AM	66.202.179.47
77	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Robin Huntington	robinhuntington@gmail.com	6768 Thornhill Drive Oakland	94611	The only dog park in Oakland is under the freeway and BART. This would be a wonderful and much needed addition instead of always having to go to Berkeley or Albany or Richmond! Please pass this! Thanks, Robin	Oct 18, 2012 08:15:34 AM	69.181.98.82
75	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Joe Wyman	jwyman@comcast.net	4903 Stoneridge Court	94605	Honorable Councilmembers: We respectfully request your support for the proposed Lake Merritt dog park! We think it will add a great space for our furry friends to be safe, off-the-street, and have recreational opportunities. The space is very close to a high density populated area making access very easy without needing a car. The Lake Merritt dog park has already been reviewed and approved in the Master Plan. Why should the Council now reverse years of planning and discussion on this vital open space improvement. Thank you for your support of this important public project. Joe Wyman	Oct 18, 2012 07:33:49 AM	64.47.42.179
75	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Loralie Gohler	loraliepants@yahoo.com	151 Lakeside Drive	94612	A dog park in the Lake Merritt area will increase property values and keep Oakland modern and attractive to potential residents. Dogs have become a very important part of many affluent people's lives. They are treated like family members, and the dog owners enjoy spending time with their animals in public places like a legal dog park. San Francisco has many dog play areas that the affluent residents enjoy with no harm done to the area or children. The neighborhoods have become safer with more people using the outdoor space, rather than let it remain a wasteland. We all know that Oakland is better than San Francisco, but there is a lack in dog play areas, which makes Oakland less appealing for the dog owner looking for housing. I know I based my home buying decision on the access to the lake, and am certain that the property values will only increase around the lake if there were more types of use offered to the residents, like a legal dog area. There are many older people in my area that have dogs and enjoy walking them as well. I am sure that the dog park would be used by these older residents, and would give them a chance to socialize with other dog owners in a secure area.	Oct 18, 2012 07:10:04 AM	169.199.121.4
74	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Krista Granieri	kmgranieri2@gmail.com	2755 vallecito place	94606	I am strongly in favor of putting a dog park area at Lake Merritt. There is a sore lack of off-leash dog areas in Oakland. The only areas legally allowing off-leash walking in the region are parts of the EBRP up on Skyline or the Bulb in Albany. Please, approve the dog park at Lake Merritt!	Oct 18, 2012 07:08:44 AM	98.248.182.248
73	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Galen Hill	galen@pgadesign.com	444 17th Street	94612	I take my dog everywhere with me, and as a result I have a very friendly dog. I work in different cities in the Bay Area, and of all the cities I work in, (Emeryville, San Francisco, Berkeley, Vacaville, Lafayette), Oakland has no parks for a dog? Everywhere else they are dog friendly, but Oakland has no such accommodations? Please build a dog park for off-leash dogs. Thank you.	Oct 18, 2012 03:55:24 AM	99.35.224.134

#	Subject	Your Name	Email	Street address of intersection	Zip Code		Date Created	IP Address
91	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Christopher rodriguez	Crlsr88@yahoo.com	Foothill at third	94606	We were shocked to find there was no place we could take our dog at the lake when we moved here. the park needs to provide for everyone not just children and soccer players. Give us Lakeviewdog dog park as planned now	Oct 21, 2012 09:36:17 AM	198.228.216.30
90	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Tesha Faulkner	Dreamcatcher3309@gmail.com	Foothill	94606	My children and I would love to take our dog to a safe fenced area near the lot. There is nothing safe in our neighborhood and we should be allowed a lake at the Lake.	Oct 21, 2012 09:32:21 AM	198.228.216.30
89	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Lesley weaver	Lesley.weaver@gmail.com	2206 9th ave	94606	Dear Ignacio, I am an active political resident recently moved to Oakland and on the board of women Lawyers of Alameda County, and I have two sweet dogs. I enjoy living in Oakland very much but there is a critical need for spaces where dogs can run and socialize in the city. The best way to encourage responsible dog ownership is to create space for owners to exercise them and form a healthy community. Please support lake view dog park. We need your help to thrive in this community. Regards, Lesley Weaver	Oct 21, 2012 09:20:52 AM	198.228.216.32
88	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Shira bezalet	Shirabez@gmail.com	Dimond	94602	Dear Libby Schaaf I support the creation of a dog park at Lakeshore and MacArthur. It is already in the master plan and will add value to the lake area. Please consider the needs of all Oakland residents. It is most appreciated. Thank you, Shira Bezalet	Oct 21, 2012 09:11:15 AM	198.228.216.26
87	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Shira bezalet	Shirabez@gmail.com	Dimond	94602	Dear Libby Schaaf I support the creation of a dog park at Lakeshore and MacArthur. It is already in the master plan and will add value to the lake area. Please consider the needs of all Oakland residents. It is most appreciated. Thank you, Shira Bezalet	Oct 21, 2012 09:11:13 AM	198.228.216.26
86	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Sheila Singh	Ssingh21@csustan.edu	Lakeshore	94606	We need a dog park HERE. THE GREEN SPACE DOESN'T GET USED. DOG OWNERS WOULD CARE FOR IT AND FORM COMMUNITY. It is not good use of our resources to have hundreds of lake area dog owners driving to Albany and Alameda everyday for their dogs when their is space available and already planned for dog owners. Please approve the dog park now	Oct 21, 2012 09:02:58 AM	198.228.216.20
85	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Jose jauregui	Magistracy11@gmail.com	Adams point	94610	Why should I have to drive to alameda? The dog park would help keep the dogs where they end make better use of space	Oct 21, 2012 08:51:54 AM	198.228.216.29
84	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Marlowe Douglas	Marlowedouglas@yahoo.com	Moss at Oakland ave	94610	We need more places for people like me with dogs. I go by. And The proposed location is seldom in use and we think it is just FAIR to make use of city space for more people. The park is meant for everyone not just people with kids and there is lots of other green space in the neighborhood. As our representatives you need to think. Beyond a few hundred NIMBYS and for the long term good of the city. Please Approve the dog park. Thank you. Marlowe on Moss	Oct 21, 2012 08:38:27 AM	198.228.216.26
83	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Heman Carrillo	hernanys@yahoo.com	adeline at 18th street	94607	It totally makes sense to have a dogs exclusive area by the lake. There are so many unused/underused areas of the park. Right now we don't have a choice but to drive to other areas, thus incurring in higher traffic, gas and environmental costs, which could be avoided if there was a designated dog area in the neighborhood. It only makes sense to approve it. Thank you	Oct 19, 2012 10:47:35 PM	69.181.186.44
82	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Jae	Jaedkst@gmail.com	1130 3rd ave	94605	My 6 month old lab needs somewhere to train, exercise and socialize with other dogs. We don't have a car, can't take her to any parks in Oakland, and can't take her on public transportation. We need this dog park. Jae	Oct 19, 2012 01:37:25 PM	66.87.67.4
81	Time to APPROVE Lakeview Family Dog Park	Treena Lawrence	treenalawrence@gmail.com	10th ave and 22nd st	94606	A little disappointed upon moving here of the city ordinances for pets in public spaces. Being without personal transportation and a pet owner poses a lack of opportunity to socialize my dog and for my dog to run off leash. It seems all grassy areas are non-pet friendly. To be able to have a pet friendly area in my neighborhood would be amazing, and I'm sure the numerous pet owners in this neighborhood would agree.	Oct 18, 2012 09:29:22 PM	50.148.134.77

Clevenger, Ann

From: Michelle McKenzie [mmckenzie@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, June 17, 2012 6:36 PM

To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Brunner, Jane; Reid, Larry; Brooks, Desley; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Schaaf, Libby; atlarge@oakalndnet.com

Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Subject: Astro Park Dog Park

Hello Oakland City Council Members,

As a resident of Oakland's lower hills and user and admirer of Lake Merritt's running paths and open, green space, I object to the enclosed dog run currently being proposed at Astro Park.

I don't oppose the existence of off-leash dog parks in general, at all. I know they tend to get good use by dogs and their owners. Oakland does have dog parks, and they are an asset for many. More concerning and critical, however, is the shortage of visible, safe, sizable, green spaces to accommodate both children and adults who make up Oakland's sizable population of nearly 400,000 people. There are depressed neighborhoods in Oakland that are completely without suitable open space and the residents of these neighborhoods have come to depend on places like Astro Park to provide a peaceful place for routine recreation. I have yet to run, walk, or drive past any corner of Astro Park and not find it filled with mixed groups of smiling, engaged people--parents, teenagers, children, some who live across the street, others who come from more distant neighborhoods.

There *are* suitable locations for housing enclosed dog runs (there are examples to be found of how and where it's done well), but this is not one of them. The proposed 21,000 square foot dog park consumes half of the existing space, and oddly chops it up, placing it too close to adjacent children's play areas, making undesirable confrontations more likely. In addition, willfully turning a highly visible green space brown, gray, or muddy, and encircling it with a chain (or any material) fence is just bad, selfish, shortsighted design.

Parks and open space have a health benefit. Open space makes running, soccer, and other calorie-burning group sports and activities possible. These activities promote 1) good health, 2) active lifestyle, 3) esteem-building, and 4) positive social interaction. In this ongoing recession, with high rates of unemployment, it is increasingly important that we provide our residents with safe, healthy, low-cost options for recreation and entertainment. These options are disappearing. Please don't take another away from the people of Oakland. Please keep in mind the basic needs, and health, of Oakland's greater population as well as the green-aesthetic of the Lake Merritt environment. I urge you to reject the appeal for a permit to build the dog park in Astro Park.

Thanks for reading,

Michelle McKenzie
Oakland, CA

11/9/2012

Clevenger, Ann

From: Richard Rose [rickdancer68@yahoo.com]

Sent: Saturday, June 30, 2012 11:37 AM

To: Clevenger, Ann

Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

Please do not vote for a dog park at Lake Merritt's Astro Park. This is not the right place for the following reasons:

- It will turn green space into brown.
- There is no maintenance budget.
- It is too close to a well-used playground.
- It is also too close to a very congested set of streets with lots of traffic.
- A fence would block park access.

Richard Rose

Clevenger, Ann

From: Paula Swiatkowski [paula_joyce@att.net]

Sent: Saturday, June 16, 2012 4:23 PM

To: Clevenger, Ann

Subject: Astro Park decision

Hello, Ms. Clevenger --

I live near Lake Merritt, and I'd like to weigh in on the Astro Park/dog park debate. While I hold no ill will towards our canine residents, I think the best use of the park is to keep it as it is now - a place where people from around the city come for recreational purposes. They feel safe here, which is so important in Oakland.

I understand that yet another decision is coming up, and I'm hoping it's a final one. The other levels of government have turned down the dog park, and I hope that the City Council will do so as well.

Thanks,
Paula Swiatkowski
632 Brooklyn Avenue

Clevenger, Ann

From: Michael Sasso [michaelwsasso@hotmail.com]

Sent: Friday, June 15, 2012 5:48 PM

To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; Brunner, Jane; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; saveastropark@gmail.com

Cc: Clevenger, Ann

Council Members,

Please do not turn Astro Park into a dog run. Very few large open grassy places in our area of Oakland exist which are suitable for soccer and other field games. Converting a large area of the park into a dog run will severely impact these activities in a negative way. There are many other suitable dog run areas which would not displace play areas for our neighbors and children.

Thank you,

Michael Sasso

492 Staten Ave., #501
Oakland, CA 94610

11/9/2012

Clevenger, Ann

From: Scott McLaughlin [scott.mclaughlin@ngem.com]

Sent: Friday, June 15, 2012 4:53 PM

To: Clevenger, Ann

Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Subject: Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. I am a resident of the Lake Grand area and frequently enjoy Astro Park. Astro Park is an invaluable piece of land in our community that has too few green play areas for children.

Respectfully,

Scott McLaughlin
491 Mandana Boulevard, #7
Oakland, California
p: 510-301-3839

Clevenger, Ann

From: maria@lukasoakland.com
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 3:06 PM
To: Miller, Scott; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: maria@lukasoakland.com
Subject: Response to Lakeview Dog Park Appeal to Council

Attachments: ResponseToAppeal_PlanningDepartment.pdf



ResponseToAppeal
_PlanningDepar...

Hi Scott and Ann,

I wanted to send a formal response to the Appeal filed by Rena Rickles and Emily Rosenberg regarding the Lakeview Dog Park Proposal.

I recognize that this project has caused an unfortunate community battle, but I feel that Ms. Rickle's appeal makes unfair and negative representations of the opposition. Furthermore, if you remove this unfair judgement, she does not present a valid appeal which is required by our code.

Please include these comments in public record and consider them when evaluating this appeal for council.

Regards,
Maria Aiderete

Clevenger, Ann

From: Elena Zolotnitsky [netlenka@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2012 11:16 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Subject: NO DOG PARK at Lake Merritt's Astro Park!!!!

Hello,

My name is Elena and I am writing to defend an Astro Park at Lake Merritt. I pass that green patch with the children's play ground and the library almost every day and I certainly do not want it to be substituted by the bark chips for the dog's park. It is a crazy ideal Just leave it be. Why does it have to be nice for dogs (?) and not for people?

Thank you!
Sincerely,
Elena Zolotnitsky

Clevenger, Ann

From: Viet Nguyen [vnp_90@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 1:34 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; Brunner, Jane; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; saveastropark@gmail.com
Cc: Clevenger, Ann; sue@heragency.com
Subject: Please **SAVE** Astro Park

Dear Council Members,

I ask that you please **DENY** the application for a conditional use permit for the proposed dog run at Astro Park. Making any part of our park into a dog-run is wrong and bad decision. Doing so will result in a bad environment and it will turn a nice clean park into a smelly and dirty area and unhealthy place for people to be around. Consequently, it will drive people away from the park and the area. Besides, I don't see any good reasons why we have to allow dog-run here. If people choose to have dogs, then they should find their own ways to take care of their dogs and should not ask people to give up the park to accommodate their needs. Dear Council, please remember that our park is beautiful as it is now, but we will lose it completely if we ever allow any part of park for dog-run. I can assure you that denying the application for a conditional use permit for the proposed dog run at Astro Park is the right decision and is the best decision you will ever have made and that you will feel happy everyday knowing that you have helped saving our beautiful park for us.

Thanks in advance for your support,

Thank you,
Viet Nguyen

Clevenger, Ann

From: Miller, Scott
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 4:16 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Merkamp, Robert
Subject: FW: Impact of Proposed Dog Park on Assisted Housing
FYI, for inclusion in your Council attachments.

From: Steven Belcher [mailto:swbelcher007@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 3:29 PM
To: Miller, Scott
CC: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Impact of Proposed Dog Park on Assisted Housing

Steven W. Belcher
630 Longridge Road
Oakland, California 94610
(510) 301-5321
swbelcher@msn.com

May 28, 2012

Dear Members of the Oakland City Council,

This is a brief note regarding the proposed dog run in Astro Park/Lakeshore. I hope you had a chance to drive by during the recent nice weather and observed the wonderful urban phenomena of a many different groups engaging in different sports at the play field. There was baseball, soccer, frizbees, kites, and little kids just tripping. Related to this availability of multi-use recreational open space is consideration of future demands on this park. At sometime in the past the Planning Commission reviewed and approved a mid rise, 54 unit low and moderate income family housing project on a relatively small site opposite Ahn's Burgers, located at Belvue

11/9/2012

and Grand. There is apparently no on-site recreation space planned for a significant number children living in the project. I have been told that the developer is mitigating this need by using Lakeside Park. Since Astro/Lakeshore Park is the only open field within walking distance to the project, the proposed dog run may significantly impact this recreation resource for these children. I would appreciate this issue being addressed in the staff report presented at the appeal.

Thank You,

Steve Belcher

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney

2012 NOV 20 AM 9:49

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember _____

A RESOLUTION UPHOLDING THE APPEAL (A12-062), OF THE DECISION OF THE OAKLAND PLANNING COMMISSION, AND GRANTING APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A MINOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW DOG PLAY AREA AT LAKEVIEW PARK (Planning Case File No. CU11-208)

WHEREAS, The Oakland Municipal Code (OMC), Section 6.04.080 prohibits dogs in public parks, leashed or unleashed, except for those parks that have been specifically approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and a subsequent amendment to the OMC adopted by City Council; and

WHEREAS, a dog play area in the Grand Lake and Lake Merritt neighborhoods has been identified as an unmet need since 1998; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan in 2002, which specifically recommends and identifies a location for a fenced, off-leash dog play area in Lakeview Park, an Oakland Neighborhood Park; and

WHEREAS, Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG) has obtained PRAC approvals in 2006, 2009 and 2010, for a fenced off-leash dog play area in Lakeview Park; and another PRAC vote in 2011 resulted in a split vote; and

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2011, the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation (the Applicant) applied for a Conditional Use Permit to establish a dog play area at Lakeview Park; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission, after taking testimony at a public hearing, denied the Conditional Use Permit application on May 2, 2012; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2012, ODOG filed an appeal to the City Council to overturn the Planning Commission's denial of the Conditional Use Permit, and

WHEREAS, after giving due notice to the Appellant, Applicant, all interested parties and the public, the Appeal came before the City Council in a duly noticed public hearing on December 4, 2012, and

WHEREAS, the Appellant, Applicant and all other interested parties were given the opportunity to participate in the public hearing by submittal of oral and written comments; and

WHEREAS, based upon the entire record before the City Council, the City Council hereby finds and determines, each of which as a separate and independent basis, the following exemptions under CEQA that apply to this project, and that none of the exceptions to such CEQA exemptions apply: CEQA Guidelines Sections 15031 (Existing Facilities); and 15183 (Projects Consistent with a Community Plan, General Plan, or Zoning); 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land); 15332 (In-fili Development Projects; 15061(b)(3) (No possibility of significant effect on the environment); and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on the Appeal was closed by the City Council on December 4, 2012; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: The City Council, having independently heard, considered, reviewed and weighed all the evidence in the record presented on behalf of all parties and being fully informed of the Project and the applications there for, the Planning Commission's decision and the Appeal, finds that the Appellant has shown, by reliance on evidence in the record, that the Planning Commission's decision was made in error and there was abuse of discretion by the Commission, and/or that the Commission's decision was not supported by sufficient, substantial evidence in the record. This decision is based, in part, on the November 7, 2012 City Council Agenda Report and the May 2, 2012 Planning Commission Report, which are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein. Accordingly, the Appeal is approved, and the Planning Commission's decision to deny the Project is overturned, and the Project and the applications therefore are approved; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That, in further support of the City Council's decision to approve the Appeal and approve the Project, the City Council affirms and adopts as its own findings and determinations the November 7, 2012 City Council Agenda Report including without limitation the discussion, findings, conclusions, specified conditions of approval (including the Standard Conditions of Approval) (each of which is hereby separately and independently adopted by this Council in full), and the November 7, 2012 City Planning Commission Report, including without limitation the discussion, findings, conclusions, conditions of approval (each of which is hereby separately and independently adopted by this Council in full), except where otherwise expressly stated in this Resolution; and be it

RESOLVED: That, the City Council independently finds and determines that this Resolution complies with CEQA and the Environmental Review Officer is directed to cause to be filed a Notice of Exemption with the appropriate agencies, for the reasons stated in the May 2, 2012 Staff Report to the City Planning Commission and the November 7, 2012, City Council Agenda Report; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the record before this Council relating to this Project and Appeal includes, without limitation, the following:

1. the Project applications, including all accompanying maps and papers;
2. all plans submitted by the Applicant and its representatives;
3. all final staff reports, decision letters and other documentation and information produced by or on behalf of the City,
4. all oral written evidence received by the City staff, Planning Commission and City Council before and during the public hearings on the Project and Appeal; and

5. all matters of common knowledge and all official enactments and acts of the City such as (a) the General Plan; (b) Oakland Municipal Code; (c) Oakland Planning Code; (d) other applicable City policies and regulations; and (e) all applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the custodians and locations of the documents or other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the City Council's decision is based are respectively: (a) City of Oakland, Office of Planning, Building and Neighborhood Preservation, 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 2114, Oakland, CA; and (b) Office of the City Clerk, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 1st floor, Oakland, CA; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the recitals contained in this resolution are true and correct and are an integral part of the City Council's decision.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, BRUNNER, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, SCHAAF and PRESIDENT REID

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____
LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Hee
City Attorney

2012 NOV 9 10 49 AM
RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember _____

A RESOLUTION DENYING THE APPEAL (A12-062), OF THE DECISION OF THE OAKLAND PLANNING COMMISSION AND DENYING THE APPLICATION FOR A MINOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW DOG PLAY AREA AT LAKEVIEW PARK (Planning Case File No. CU11-208)

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2011, the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation (the Applicant) applied for a Conditional Use Permit to establish a dog play area at Lakeview Park; and

WHEREAS, The Oakland Municipal Code (OMC), Section 6.04.080 prohibits dogs in public parks, leashed or unleashed, except for those parks that have been specifically approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and a subsequent amendment to the OMC adopted by City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission took testimony and considered the matter at its meeting held May 2, 2012. At the conclusion of the public hearing held for the matter, the commission deliberated the matter, and voted. The project was denied, 0-3-1; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2012, the Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG), a sponsor of the Application, filed an appeal to the City Council to overturn the Planning Commission's denial of the Conditional Use Permit, and

WHEREAS, after giving due notice to the Appellant, Applicant, all interested parties and the public, the Appeal came before the City Council in a duly noticed public hearing on December 4, 2012,

WHEREAS, the Appellant, Applicant and all other interested parties were given the opportunity to participate in the public hearing by submittal of oral and written comments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby finds and determines finds that CEQA exemption 15270 (Projects which are Disapproved) applies to this project, and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on the Appeal was closed by the City Council on December 4, 2012; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: The City Council, having independently heard, considered, reviewed and weighed all the evidence in the record presented on behalf of all parties and being fully informed of the Project and the applications there for, the Planning Commission's decision and the Appeal, finds that the Appellant has not shown, by reliance on evidence in the record, that the Planning Commission's decision was made in error and there was abuse of discretion by the Commission, and/or that the Commission's decision was not supported by sufficient, substantial evidence in the record. This decision is based, in part, on the November 7, 2012 City Council Agenda Report and the May 2, 2012 Planning Commission Report, which are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein. Accordingly, the Appeal is denied, at the Planning Commission's decision to deny the Project is upheld, and the Project and the applications therefor are denied; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That, in further support of the City Council's decision to deny the Appeal and therefore deny the Project, the City Council affirms and adopts as its own findings and determination the May 2, 2012 City Planning Commission Report including without limitation the discussion, findings, conclusions, conditions of approval (each of which is hereby separately and independently adopted by this Council in full), as well as the November 7, 2012 City Council Agenda Report including without limitation the discussion, findings, conclusions, specified conditions of approval (including the Standard Conditions of Approval) (each of which is hereby separately and independently adopted by this Council in full) except where otherwise expressly stated in this Resolution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the record before this Council relating to this Project and Appeal includes, without limitation, the following:

1. the Project applications, including all accompanying maps and papers;
2. all plans submitted by the Applicant and its representatives;
3. all final staff reports, decision letters and other documentation and information produced by or on behalf of the City,
4. all oral written evidence received by the City staff, Planning Commission and City Council before and during the public hearings on the Project and Appeal; and
5. all matters of common knowledge and all official enactments and acts of the City such as (a) the General Plan; (b) Oakland Municipal Code; (c) Oakland Planning Code; (d) other applicable City policies and regulations; and (e) all applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the custodians and locations of the documents or other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the City Council's decision is based are respectively: (a) City of Oakland, Office of Planning, Building and Neighborhood Preservation, 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 2114, Oakland, CA; and (b) Office of the City Clerk, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 1st floor, Oakland, CA; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the recitals contained in this resolution are true and correct and are an integral part of the City Council's decision.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20_____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, BRUNNER, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, SCHAAF and PRESIDENT REID

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____

LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California