

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: May 9, 2006

Location: Centennial Park – Live Oak Room 600 Nickerson Drive, Paso Robles

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Nash called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Secretary O’Neal took roll as follows:

Members present: Robin Fairbairn, Robert Gibson, Amie Hammond, Heidi Hostetter-Wicka, Robert Nash, Barbara Partridge, David Steaffens and Kevin Will

City staff present: Annie Robb, Charlotte Gorton, Judy O’Neal, Doug Monn and Charles Lorenzen

City Council reps present: Councilman Nemeth

City Council reps absent: Mayor Mecham

Planning Commissioner rep: Christie Withers

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine, and, therefore do not require separate discussion. However, if discussion is necessary, or if a member of the public wishes to comment on any item, the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. Questions of clarification may be made by the Advisory members without removal from the Agenda.

1. A motion was made by Member Fairbairn, seconded by Will, to approve the Minutes of the April 11, 2006 meeting – motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. **Parks-4-Pups**
 - Paula O’Farrell, representing Parks-4-Pups, reviewed the proposal (**see Attachment A attached**) given to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and noted that 1,131 signatures of support for dogs in parks were given to Robert Nash, Chairman of the Advisory Committee for review.
 - Paula asked the audience to stand and be recognized in support for dogs to be allowed in public parks. There were approximately 34 supporters in attendance.
 - Paula recapped the proposal to amend the City Ordinance #489 (Sec. 8.08.055) and to adopt the walking paths at Centennial Park and Turtle Creek Parks, on a one-year trial basis, as designated “dog walks”. Their organization will pay for the installation of dog walk bag dispensers and maintain the trails with their group of volunteers.

- Turtle Creek Park is in the City’s Landscape and Lighting District and staff will have to check if there are any maintenance restrictions governing that park. Doug will let Paula and staff know his findings.

Public comments:

- Pete Jenny, San Luis Obispo County Parks Manager, spoke on behalf of the County’s off-leash public pet parks. Six years ago there were no off leash, pet parks and now there are three and he is very supportive of them all:
 - a) San Luis Obispo 4-Pups
 - b) Nipomo Park
 - c) Highland Park in Atascadero
- Milt Carrigan, Paso Robles, if he would have known there was no place to walk his dog in Paso Robles, especially a park, he probably would not have moved here. He was led to believe you could walk your dog at Sherwood Park by his realtor and later found out about the leash law prohibiting dogs in all city parks.
- Other Parks-4-Pup supporters that spoke were:
 - o Diane Thompson, Paso Robles
 - o Emily Beebee, Paso Robles
 - o Lee Agon, Paso Robles
 - o Nancy, Paso Robles
 - o Judy James, Atascadero
 - o Kathy Kropp, Paso Robles
 - o Greg Hessick Atascadero
 - o Kate Paap, , Paso Robles
 - o Emily Cohen, Paso Robles
 - o Greg Haas, behalf of REC Foundation, non-profit
 - o Beth Gier, , Paso Robles

Advisory Committee Action:

- Robin Fairbairn made a motion, seconded by Heidi Hostetter-Wicka, to approve the proposal submitted by Paula O’Farrell, representing Parks-4-Pups, for the City to review the Municipal Ordinance #489 (Sec 8.08055) that bans dogs on-leash from all city parks. Parks-4-Pups would like to adopt the walking paths at Centennial Park and Turtle Creek Park as designated “dog walks” on a one year trial basis and these would be designated as “dogs allowed” areas; Parks-4-Pups would pay to install dog walk bag dispensers and maintain these two trails with group volunteers as outlined in the proposal and attached in “Attachment A”.

Chairman Nash requested a roll call vote of this motion as follows:

- 5 - Yes: Robin Fairbairn, Robert Gibson, Amie Hammond, Heidi Hostetter-Wicka, and Barbara Partridge
- 3 - Noes: Robert Nash, David Steaffens and Kevin Will

Motion passes with a five (5) votes yes and three (3) noes.

3. **Naming Policy**

- Member Partridge discussed the possibilities of park benches as a gift.
- Discussed a City moratorium on gifting park benches until we have a mechanism in place for gifting benches, trees, rose bushes, statues, etc.
- An ad hoc committee was formed of Partridge and Steaffens to work with Annie Robb to amend the City’s Naming Policy.

AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES

Parks and Recreation Standards - None

Master Plan Parks - None

Skate Park - None

Billboards

1. We are still waiting for feedback from Officer Tato of the Paso Robles Police Dept.
2. Will and Fairbairn thought the city could make money by posting billboards at city parks.
3. Members Will and Fairbairn do not plan to continue their membership with the PRAC. With this in mind, the Advisory Committee may not want to pursue this Goal.
4. Councilman Nemeth asked why this project did not go forward because he thinks it is a good project. Ad hoc answered: bureaucracy, First Amendment, who will do the maintenance and upkeep and cost analysis posters? Revenue stream is good and he would be happy to help if needed.

PLANNING COMMISSIONER - None

CITY MANAGER / CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Nemeth discussed:

1. Parks & Recreation Standards will be discussed having representatives from other Committees. Councilman Nemeth wanted to know if the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee had a representative attending the City Council meetings yet? Robb advised no. Councilman Nemeth advised the Parks-4-Pups project would be a good example or need for a representative.
2. Discussed the new Centennial Park roller hockey courts, nets, how it is a great asset, etc.

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS

- The following members do not plan on renewing their membership that expires on June 30, 1006:
 1. Heidi Hostetter-Wicka has to go back to work.
 2. Robin Fairbairn will be serving on the Mozart Festival Board.
 3. Amie Hammond is working in San Luis Obispo and it is too difficult to make the meetings.
 4. Kevin Will cannot commit his time and does not have the desire for the committee.
- Chairman Nash and Interim-Director Robb would like the above members to do an exit interview in writing:
 - a) Their opinion of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, etc.?
 - b) What the members, city and/or staff can do to better the Advisory Committee, etc.?
 - c) Recommendations for the City Council governing this Committee, etc.?
- Robb talked about the Sherwood Forrest ground breaking ceremony. Staff did a very nice job.

ADJOURN

- Adjourn to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2006, 4:00 p.m. at Centennial Park – Live Oak Room, 600 Nickerson Drive, Paso Robles.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT THEIR 6/13/06 MEETING

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes of 5/9/06



April 25, 2006

Mr. Robert Nash
Paso Robles Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
600 Nickerson Drive
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Dear Mr. Nash:

Parks-4-Pups is pleased to submit this proposal for your review. We are requesting that your committee review Municipal Ordinance #489 (Sec 8.08.055) enacted in 1984 that bans dogs on-leash from all city parks. Our community and our world have changed significantly in 22 years to warrant a change in this ordinance:

- A body of knowledge and experience now exists among park professionals¹, nationwide and within our County, confirming that an integrated approach to allowing pets in public places can be successful and beneficial to a community.
- Parks-4-Pups, a non-profit organization of dog owners with proven experience now exists and is willing to pay for and maintain park areas for on-leash dogs and to promote responsible dog ownership.
- A sense of "etiquette" is now pervasive among dog owners as dogs are welcomed in our finest hotels, restaurants, and shops. Dog obedience classes are among the most popular recreation offerings for many cities². In 1984, there were no dog walk bag dispensers, no signs and no peer pressure to clean up after your dogs. It is now the norm for dog owners to carry dog walk bags and to clean up after their pets.
- The demographics of our community have changed³ substantially to suggest that our city is now a destination for tourists and retirees. The decline in our open space areas⁴ and smaller residence lots indicate an increased need for recreation areas for dog owners. We have a sizeable number of residents with smaller households and pet ownership. The pet industry is one of the fastest growing segments⁵ of our economy representing a willingness for dog owners to invest in their pets.

5-3-7₁

Proposal Criteria	Response
<p>1. <i>Provide the purpose of the facility or program and identify all potential user groups, both public and private</i></p>	<p>Parks-4-Pups proposes to adopt the walking paths of Centennial Park and Turtle Creek Park as city "dog walks" where dogs on-leash would be welcome. Our organization will pay for the installation of dog walk bag dispensers, supplies, and signs for these trails. Our volunteers will maintain the trails to include picking up litter and dog waste, and refilling the dog walk bag dispensers as necessary. We will also assist the parks staff in supervising the areas and providing notification of hazardous conditions that we observe or encounter in these areas.</p> <p>The potential user groups include all Paso Robles residents and visitors who own dogs and desire a safe, attractive park setting for recreation with their dogs. Estimates from the American Veterinary Association indicate that 42% of all households have one or more dogs. The American Pet Products Manufacturer's Association reports that 68% of dog owners bring their dog when they travel.</p> <p>The proposal also benefits non-dog owners who want to encourage dog owners to avoid areas such as the downtown city park, sports fields, and other areas where dogs are unwanted. Non-dog owners will benefit in knowing that the beauty of the park areas will be maintained without taxing city staff or resources.</p>
<p>2. <i>If the proposal involves the use of a city owned park or recreation facility, identify the facility and necessary improvements or modifications required to support the proposal</i></p>	<p>Parks-4-Pups proposes to adopt the walking paths of Centennial Park and Turtle Creek Park (see Appendix B). The following improvements are required to implement our proposal:</p> <p>At each trail, install three (3) dog walk bag dispensers with 400 bag capacity (see Appendix D) on 4" x 4" pressure treated wood posts set in concrete at a depth of 3'. Dispenser height at 4½'.</p> <p>Replace existing sign at the parking lot entrance with new sign including park rule "Leash and clean up after your dog"</p>

5-3-5
3

5. Identify if the proposal is a City Council goal or is consistent with adopted City Council goals.

This proposal is consistent with the following City Council goals:

#24. Add special interest programs (BSP, Library, teen, seniors, Native American, early childhood education and public art).

This proposal addresses the special interest needs of dog owners in our community. Across the country, dog owners are lobbying for expanded recreational options and have organized into dog owner associations and clubs. Every municipality in San Luis Obispo County is currently working with a citizen group to develop park areas for dog owners to enjoy. Unlike other cities, Paso Robles is fortunate to have a dedicated group such as Parks-4-Pups willing to pay for and maintain these areas.

Parks-4-Pups is an established non-profit organization and well respected in the community. Since 2004, we have provided numerous community events and continue to promote responsible dog ownership in our outreach efforts. We have an excellent working relationship with the City of Atascadero Community Services Department, the County of San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Department, and SLOPOST (San Luis Obispo Parks, Open Space, and Trails Foundation).

#20. Improve communications with citizens (including web site and regular meetings with advisory bodies and staff)

With budget cuts, our city maintenance staff is stretched thin to meet the increased demands of our community. Our volunteers can assist in park maintenance and supervision of these trails. The watchful eyes and ears of our volunteers can alert park staff to potential hazards in our parks before an injury occurs. We can help to enforce leash laws and promote responsible dog ownership with park visitors.

#7. Improve transportation system/traffic flow

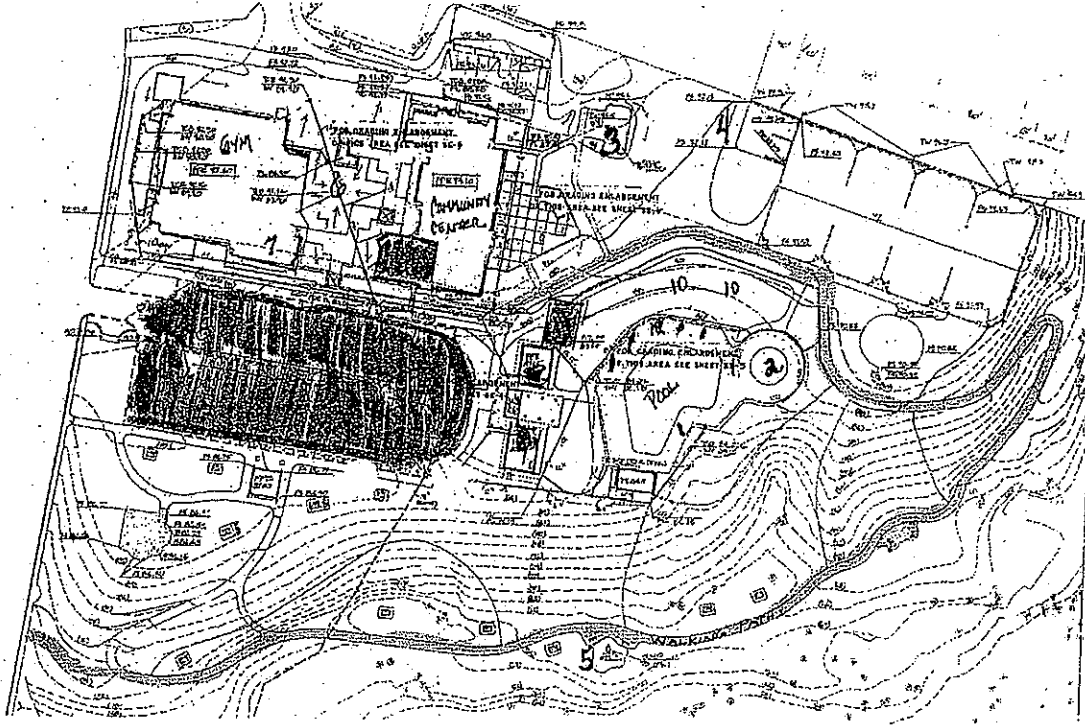
City residents must drive to Templeton, Atascadero, or Cambria to enjoy a city park experience with their dogs. By designating dog walks in convenient neighborhood locations, residents have the option to walk instead of drive to a park.

<p><i>service to be provided by the proposal is available through a commercial interest or if it will compete with a commercial interest.</i></p>	
<p>9. <i>Identify potential legal and liability issues that may result from the proposal.</i></p>	<p>As with dog walkers on city sidewalks, there is potential for injury resulting from a dog bite or attack. As a result of such injury, there is a potential for lawsuit or claim for damages. The experience of other municipalities indicates that the risk is minimal. No such incident or injury has occurred as a result in any of the cities within San Luis Obispo County or other cities that were polled that allowed dogs on-leash in their city parks. There is no evidence to support any greater liability risk than those that the city already assumes with tennis courts, swimming pools, sports fields, and skate parks.</p> <p>Our understanding is that the "dangerous condition" immunity from public liability generally relieves the public agency of liability, especially for the acts of third parties using the public property (Gov't. Code section 830 et. seq.; Jones v. Czapkay (1960) 182 Cal.App.2d 192).</p> <p>Though dog attacks can occur against humans, other dogs, and other animals, most dogs do not bite people or other dogs (Domestic Dog, 1995; Canine Behavior, 1965). In the overwhelming majority of cases, dog attacks occur in the dog owner's home or immediate vicinity—not in public open space. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association (January 22, 1997), the vast majority of dog bites occur on a dog's territory, typically when a dominant, protective, or injured dog is not adequately supervised. These triggers are not present when a dog is in the neutral territory of a public park.</p>

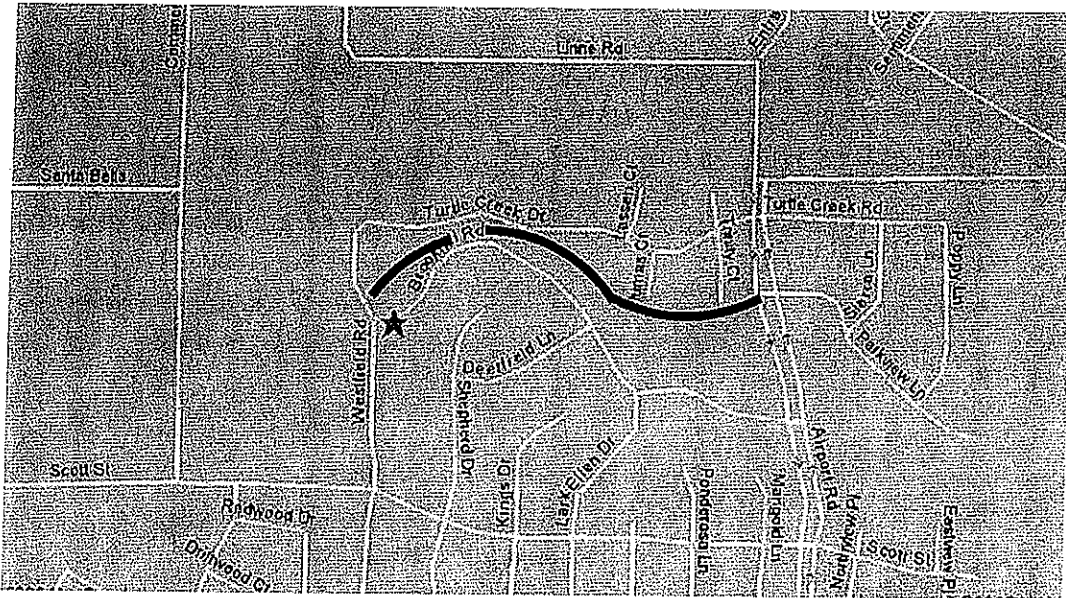
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Appendix B: Site Locations

Centennial Park walking path



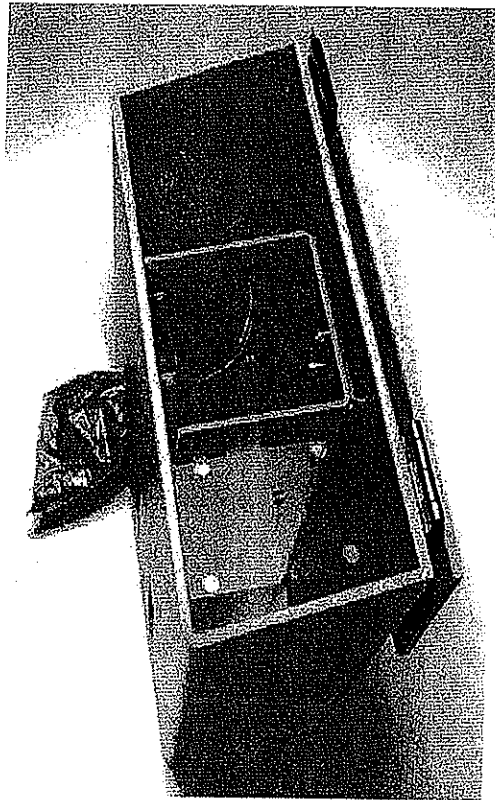
Turtle Creek Park walking path



5-3-8

Appendix D: Dog Walk Bag Dispenser Unit

The following is the proposed equipment for this proposal. The dispenser units have been in use at the off-leash dog park in Atascadero for the past year with success and by several municipalities in the state. The units are available with 2 or 3 roll capacity and are easy to install and refill. For more specifications on these units, visit the vendor website at www.leisuremore.com.



5-3-9

Appendix F: Survey of California cities' policies on dogs on-leash in city parks

In April 2006, our supporters surveyed 281 cities in California with a population over 20,000 and cities in San Luis Obispo County to identify the prevailing practice in municipalities as it relates to allowing dogs on-leash in city parks. The survey was conducted through email and telephone inquiries. The following is a summary of our findings. The following pages include a detailed city listing of our survey results.

	# of cities	% of cities
# of cities allowing dogs on leash in some or all city parks	247	88%
# of cities <i>not</i> allowing dogs on leash in city parks but providing off leash recreation areas	12	4%
Total # of cities providing park areas for dog owners	259	92%
# of cities not allowing dogs on-leash in any city park and not providing an off-leash area for dog owners	22	8%

We find it also of relevance to note that 133 cities out of the 281 (47%) surveyed have one or more off-leash dog parks in place or pending construction.

5-3-10

PARK PRIVILEGES

Total # of cities:

259

City	Pop	Dogs allowed in city parks	# of Dog Parks
COLTON	51,627	yes	
COMMERCE	13,504	yes	0
COMPTON	98,802	yes	0
CONCORD	124,798	yes	1
CORCORAN	22,528	yes	0
CORONA	144,070	yes	1
CORONADO	26,973	yes	2
COSTA MESA	113,440	yes	1
CULVER CITY	40,870	no	pending
CUPERTINO	53,452	Yes	0
CYPRESS	48,863	Yes	0
DALY CITY	104,661	no	2
DANA POINT	36,765	yes	0
DANVILLE	43,273	yes	1
DAVIS	64,401	yes	6
DIAMOND BAR	59,953	yes	0
DIXON	17,179	yes	1
DOWNNEY	113,607	yes	0
DUARTE	22,834	yes	0
DUBLIN	39,931	yes	1
EAST PALO ALTO	32,202	yes	0
EL CAJON	97,703	yes	1
EL CENTRO	41,030	yes	0
EL CERRITO	23,407	yes	0
EL MONTE	125,832	yes	0
EL SEGUNDO	17,024	yes	2
ELK GROVE	121,609	yes	2
ENCINITAS	62,774	Yes	1
ESCONDIDO	141,350	yes	1
EUREKA	26,381	no	pending
FAIRFIELD	105,026	yes	pending
FOLSOM	68,033	yes	0
FOSTER CITY	29,876	yes	1
FOUNTAIN	57,353	yes	0
FREMONT	210,445	yes	1
FRESNO	464,727	yes	1
FULLERTON	135,672	yes	0
GALT	22,955	Yes	0
GILROY	47,671	yes	0
GLENDALE	207,007	yes	0
GOLETA	30,679	Yes	
GROVER BEACH	13,228	yes	0
HANFORD	48,070	yes	planned
HAYWARD	146,027	yes	2
HERCULES	23,360	yes	0
HERMOSA BEACH	19,608	yes	0
HESPERIA	76,114	yes	0
HOLLISTER	37,183	yes	0
HUNTINGTON	200,763	yes	1
HUNTINGTON	64,929	no	1

PARK PRIVILEGES

Total # of cities:

259

City	Pop	Dogs allowed in city parks	# of Dog Parks
IMPERIAL BEACH	27,710	yes	0
INDIO	66,118	yes	0
INGLEWOOD	118,164	yes	0
IRVINE	180,803	yes	1
LA CANADA	21,608	yes	0
LA HABRA	61,771	Yes	0
LA MESA	55,983	Yes	1
LA MIRADA	50,477	Yes	0
LA PUENTE	43,360	Yes	0
LA QUINTA	36,145	yes	0
LAFAYETTE	24,317	yes	0
LAGUNA BEACH	24,969	yes	1
LAGUNA HILLS	33,253	yes	0
LAGUNA NIGUEL	66,126	yes	1
LAKE ELSINORE	38,045	yes	0
LAKE FOREST	78,020	yes	0
LANCASTER	133,703	yes	0
LAWNDALE	33,458	yes	0
LEMON GROVE	25,531	yes	0
LEMOORE	22,508	yes	0
LINCOLN	27,356	no	1
LIVERMORE	80,723	yes	3
LODI	62,467	yes	2
LOMA LINDA	21,592	yes	1
LOMPOC	42,320	yes	0
LONG BEACH	491,564	yes	2
LOS ALTOS	27,614	yes	0
LOS BANOS	70,000	yes	0
LOS GATOS	28,976	yes	1
MANHATTAN	36,843	no	2
MANTECA	61,927	yes	pending
MARTINEZ	36,818	yes	0
MAYWOOD	29,596	yes	
MERCED	73,610	yes	pending
MILLBRAE	20,708	yes	
MILPITAS	64,998	yes	1
MISSION VIEJO	98,197	yes	planned
MODESTO	207,634	yes	pending
MONROVIA	39,147	yes	planned
MONTCLAIR	35,530	yes	1
MONTEBELLO	65,672	yes	0
MONTEREY	30,641	yes	planned
MONTEREY PARK	64,614	yes	0
MOORPARK	35,908	yes	0
MORENO VALLEY	165,328	yes	pending
MORGAN HILL	36,423	yes	1
MORRO BAY	10,511	yes	0
MOUNTAIN VIEW	72,033	yes	2
MURRIETA	85,102	yes	0
NAPA	76,346	yes	1

PARK PRIVILEGES

Total # of cities:				259
City	Pop	Dogs allowed in city parks	# of Dog Parks	
VICTORVILLE	86,473	yes	0	
VISALIA	107,550	yes	2	
VISTA	94,109	yes	1	
WALNUT	31,900	yes	0	
WALNUT CREEK	66,501	yes	1	
WASCO	23,708	yes	0	
WATSONVILLE	49,601	yes	0	

PARK PRIVILEGES

Total # of cities: 259

City	Pop	Dogs allowed in city parks	# of Dog Parks
WEST COVINA	112,417	yes	0
WEST	38,036	Yes	1
WEST	40,206	yes	2
WESTMINSTER	92,270	yes	0
WHITTIER	87,250	yes	0
WINDSOR	25,475	yes	1
WOODLAND	53,382	no	planning
YORBA LINDA	65,621	yes	0
YUBA CITY	58,368	yes	planned
YUCAIPA	49,388	yes	1

their dogs, just as there are irresponsible people who do not pick up their own garbage. As a dog owner who picks up after me, my dogs, and after anyone else who leaves garbage or dog droppings, I would endorse rules, regulations, fines, etc. for those who do not comply. I do not think simply banning people and their dogs from parks are the complete answer.

I also believe that dog owners who are out walking their dogs on a regular basis are the perfect "neighborhood watch" who can help keep a city safe, clean, and friendly. In this day of "homeland security," our 4 legged friends and their keepers are perfect watchers of the entire goings on. And in this day of overweight Americans who need exercise, I don't think we should be discouraging anyone from getting out and exercising. Governments--city, Federal, and State--have a responsibility to protect their citizens, but also to encourage positive behavior.

I live in SLO next to French Park. Many people and many dogs enjoy this open space. We manage to keep things clean, safe, and enjoyable for all. I think Paso Robles can do the same and I would look forward to hearing that they have the same opportunities that we do in SLO. And I'd look forward to visiting Paso more often with my dogs, spending my money in your city, if I were able to bring my dogs with me.

Kim Wykoff, Paso Robles resident since 1989:

Have dog owners changed since 1984. My response is YES! People in general are paying quite a bit more attention to their health these days and that includes walking the dog for exercise. This walking trail is not just about the dogs, it's about the people that walk the dogs. This promotes good health for humans and canines.

Paso Robles has grown substantially since 1984 and with that comes more dog lovers. My husband and I would love to walk our dog in the mornings on the weekend because it is our day off and a good time to do it. Where better place than the park? We pay taxes here and this is how we would like to use our city park.

I would say since 1984 dogs have become more like part of the family. We take our dogs everywhere with us including outdoors to exercise. We realize the importance of keeping our dogs healthy with regular exercise as well as maintaining a happy dog by doing so.

Jennifer Fanning, Recreation Supervisor for City of Atascadero, Paso Robles resident

Since 1984 lifestyles have changed for many. 1) Families are spending more hours working outside of the home. Being gone all day, when they get home from work they enjoy taking their family pet out in the fresh air for exercise. Recreation keeps people sane. 2) Moms & dads are both going to work, and more and more couples are choosing not to have children because of their careers. With that said, they are choosing to have dogs and/or animals which are their "children". These adults want to spend quality time with their "children" and for a dog, quality time is time spent outside on beautiful land, getting exercise and chasing a ball. 3) Baby boomers are retiring and spending more time recreating, exercising and spending time with their best friends (their dogs!). Where are they going to do that?

Nancy Tyner, Paso Robles:

First thoughts that come to my mind about how the doggie world has changed since the eighties is dogs are big business now, there is a greater number of them due to social changes --smaller families, blended families, more people going solo and many more seniors. They are being treated with more and more respect due to their contributions. Where have these park and rec committee members been, living in a

- Dog owners "fuss" over their pets a lot more which is evidenced by the popularity of pet superstores, pet bakeries, and more pet salons (portable and stationary).

How has the world changed since 1984 to warrant a change in this ordinance?

- There are a lot more people retiring at an earlier age who have more time to enjoy the outdoors with their pets.

- People are more aware of their surroundings and want to live and be in a nice place, so picking up after their pets is something they just expect to have to do.

- We are aware that we can make decisions for ourselves for our own wellbeing without having to have the government or beauracracy tell us what is good for us and what we really want.

I hope this helps. I will talk to a few others about the park trail and I personally would be willing to be a "trail angel".

Greg Hessick, Atascadero:

There have definitely been significant change since 1984, I think in reference to dog ownership people is much more responsible. The first time I walked a dog around Atascadero Lake and noticed waste bag dispensers, I was very pleased to see a positive reaction from my local government. As many dogs that are still being walked around the lake without causing problems for the nondog owners makes a good argument that responsible dog ownership is the rule not the exception. I also think that I am a much more aware dog owner since I have been attending the dog park at Heilmann Park.

I think since 1984 there have been far too many laws written by Local, State, and Federal Governments. There has also not been nearly enough enforcement. It's wrong to have laws that only apply to the responsible public, while the others violate laws and ordinances without consequences. I see lots of dogs all over Paso Robles, some of them in City Parks, but the responsible dog owners stay out.

Lori Davis, Atascadero:

In 1984, the only examples of dog ownership were Lassie and all the sitcom families who had dogs that never pooped, and only did cute tricks. Now there is so much education on TV. The Dog Whisperer, K9 Cops, Good Dog U., who would have ever guessed that animals would have their own channel and a dog show would follow the Super Bowl. Obedience classes are packed, and people are free to show their pride in their pet, where you used to be considered a bit eccentric "or the crazy cat lady!" Back then no man I know would have been caught dead with a poop bag swinging from his wrist, now days it's a good way to pick up girls. How many times do the newscasters gush about how much is spent on pets, Paso needs to get aware of just what an economic force we are.

On a personal rant - I am so tired of politicians crying about how they need more money for the children, and we are automatically supposed to empty our pockets. Well at least half of our friends only have "fur-children" and if they want our continued support it works both ways. We usually have more disposable income and more free time to be a real thorn in their sides! How many times have you driven by the P.R.city park and no one is in it?

Brooke Langle, Paso Robles:

My reply would be that our recent experience (last 5-10 years) is that dog owners have responded very positively to having access to recreational areas in our cities and counties. I think we would be able to cite the Laguna Lake and (the park across from Cuesta), and most recently the Atascadero dog park, as examples of the behavior of organized, responsible dog owners. You can't control every "bad seed", but

In short, it's the old win-win of "do that here, NOT over there, " a smart planning option that gives cities and counties maximum control and maximum flexibility and maximum options.

Diane Burkhart, Paso Robles

I think things have changed a lot. In 1984 I doubt I would have ever picked up my dogs poop. I just wasn't educated. And there were a lot more open spaces to just run free so you didn't have to. Now places to walk your dog are at a premium and we all know that a few bad owners spoil it for everyone so we police ourselves.

Rhoda Paysnick, Paso Robles,

The question is not what has changed about owning a dog since 1984, but what has changed about this area. The ordinance was written with the area at the heart of enforcement and not the individual dog owners. This point needs to be clarified. The area has changed significantly in the last twenty-two years. The number of home owners with domestic animals is quite a bit higher than it was 22 years ago. In 1984, this was still primarily a ranching community. It no longer fits that description. There are many more residential areas than ranch areas in Paso Robles at present. The council needs to get in touch with the needs and demands of the present day residents of Paso Robles.

THE TRIBUNE

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SHERIFF: ...
CITY MANAGER: ...
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STEPHAN EMMONS, Associate Editor

KNIGHT RIDERS

EDITORIAL

Opinion of The Tribune



Runy came with his owner Kay De Smet, from Shell Beach and was ready to play fetch at El Chorro Regional Park in San Luis Obispo.

Give pooches another chance in Paso parks

It's a dog's life for the pooches of Paso, where man's best friend isn't allowed to set so much as a paw in a public park — even on a leash. Dogs were banned from all city parks in 1984 after irresponsible pet owners failed to clean up after their canines, creating a public health nuisance and making more work for city maintenance crews. As a result, the city cracked down on all dog owners, punishing a few rotten apples spoiling every one else.

It wonders (and the reason for the tough stance) but because of it, the city lags in meeting the needs of an important segment of the population, responsible pet owners who are conscientious in caring for their animals.

While other San Luis Obispo County communities are establishing off-leash parks where dogs are free to roam, Paso residents are traveling out of town just to find a park where they can walk their leashed dogs. It's time the city gave dog owners a second chance.

A nonprofit group, Parks 4 Pups, is asking the city to allow dog walking on a limited basis, by permitting leashed dogs on a designated area or trail in one city park. The group is offering to maintain that area, so the city won't incur any additional expense that fails to live up to the bargain. Parks 4 Pups understands that the dog walking privilege will be revoked if the city should jump on the offer.

Dog walking is a healthy, inexpensive form of exercise. It also provides opportunities for dog owners to relax and socialize with one another. In short, it's good for mental and physical health. And for a tourist community such as Paso Robles, it makes economic sense to provide pet-friendly accommodations for visitors who choose to travel with their pets.

It's time for Paso Robles to loosen the leash and allow dogs back in one or more of its parks, at least on a trial run. In turn, pet owners should show they're deserving of a second chance by keeping the parks clean.



March 22, 2006

Mr. Robert Nash
Paso Robles Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
600 Nickerson Drive
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Dear Mr. Nash:

The Hampton Inn & Suites of Paso Robles is dedicated to promoting diversification as well as a high level of satisfaction among all of our guests. We are one of the few lodging facilities in the city of Paso Robles that welcomes travelers with pets.

We were very surprised recently to find out that our great city actually has a municipal ordinance that prohibits dogs on leash in city parks, all but eliminating our guest's opportunity to enjoy our community's nature with their dog.

It has come to our attention that an organization called Parks-4-Pets will be submitting a proposal to the city in order to have a designated trail or area within a city park where dogs on leashes would be welcome.

All of us at the Hampton Inn & Suites ask that you give this proposal your serious consideration. It would greatly benefit our pet owner visitors that spend their hard earned dollars to visit our city as well as those who are lucky enough to reside here and own dogs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William H. Roof".

William H. Roof, CHA
General Manager

5-3-17



April 17, 2006

Mr. Robert Nash
Paso Robles Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
600 Nickerson Drive
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Dear Mr. Nash:

The Travelodge welcomes the many visitors to our city who travel with pets. We support the efforts of Parks-4-Pups to sponsor and maintain park areas where dog owners can walk their dogs on-leash in our city parks. We understand and share their concerns for maintenance and safety in our park areas among our city residents.

We feel that providing a safe and attractive recreation alternative for our dog owners is a benefit to all of our citizens and visitors and deserves your consideration of their proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ajay Patel", is written above the printed name.

Ajay Patel
Resident Manager

5-3-18

TRAVELODGE PASO ROBLES
2701 Spring Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446 (805) 238-0078



KENNEDY CLUB FITNESS

April 19, 2006

Mr. Robert Nash
Paso Robles Parks & Recreation
Advisory Committee
600 Nickerson Drive
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Dear Mr. Nash

Kennedy Club Fitness is dedicated to promoting fitness in our community with clubs in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo, Atascadero and upcoming in Paso Robles. We know that recreation and exercise are important ways to "strengthen" a community and bring people together in positive ways.

We were very surprised and frankly, disappointed to learn that Paso Robles has a municipal ordinance that bans dogs on-leash in city parks depriving many city residents from an enjoyable form of exercise.

We understand that the organization known as Parks-4-Pups is submitting a proposal for the city to designate a trail or an area within a city park where dogs on-leash would be welcome. Their offer to pay for doggy walk bags and maintain this trail with their volunteers is generous. We hope you will give this proposal your serious consideration, as it would be of great benefit to residents and visitors to our community.

Sincerely,

Barb Kennedy

Owner/Group Exercise Director
Kennedy Club Fitness
805.466.6775
barbkennedy2001@yahoo.com



Good Dogs

with Kathy Kropp

Robert Nash
Paso Robles Parks and Recreation Advisory Council
600 Nickerson Dr.
Paso Robles, Ca 93446

Dear Mr. Nash,

As the dog trainer for Paso Robles Parks and Recreation Programs I would like to respectfully bring to your attention that participation my obedience program is at an all time high. I've been teaching this program for the last five years in which it has become increasing more popular to the point of splitting and adding more classes. In my classes I stress basic good manners including proper behavior in public which includes picking up after their dogs. However I also stress that the dogs need exercise to maintain that control. As you know, right now there is no place in the city for concerned dog owners to exercise their dogs. I hope we can remedy that.

Sincerely,


Kathy Kropp
805 237-9985

5-3-19