

**Comments Received Relating to the Dog Park and the Dog Park Concept Plan
after 02/11/22 at 2PM until 9AM 02/15/22**

Comments:	<p>Date: February 14, 2022 To: LOCS D Subject: Comments Re the proposed Los Osos Dog Park</p> <p>I was involved with the planning and construction of the Folsom Independent Dog Owners (FIDO) dog park in Folsom California back in 2007. It is a large, successful, heavily utilized dog park, but there were many lessons and things we would have done different if had a chance to do over. I know you are just in the preliminary phases only, but below are a few thoughts for consideration as you begin to layer on more details for the dog park. Anxious to see this dog park proceed. Thank you for presenting this to the CSD for further consideration.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Add separate maintenance gates (12' wide) into each side of park.2. The DG in front of the access gates and paths out to the seating areas, is hard on dog's pads and will get sloppy during heavy rain event. The large dogs will mix up the DG and sand. Borders for the DG will weather, and the paths will require maintenance and re-establishment. Consider concrete walkways instead. These would also be more convenient for anyone in a wheelchair. ADA requirements may require you to consider concrete in lieu of DG. Area is relatively flat so ADA slope and side slope limits should be easy to comply with.3. Provide drinking water to each side. We installed an expensive combination drinking fountain / dog water bowl unit. Seemed great but a maintenance issue to keep clean. Rarely used by people and the dogs preferred a large water bucket to drink out of. Consider plumbing hose bibbs only, not drinking fountains. There are hose bibs with timed shut off, to avoid against someone leaving a hose running.4. The dog water bucket will get dirty quickly as dogs step or paw in it. People will dump and refresh the water often. <u>Have very good drainage here!!!</u> We had DI's at center of large concrete pads at each sitting area and 6" SDR drains to convey water away. But we only had 2" DI's at each dog watering area. The watering areas were often flooded as people dumped the large water buckets.5. Budget for signage, lots of signage. Consider as a minimum: 1)Hours of use, 2)Pet Owners assume all responsibility for their pets, 3)no aggressive dogs, 4)No Smoking, as cigarette butts are very poisonous to
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dogs, 5) no outside food in park, and 6) Please pick up after your dog. There will be issues, dog fights and bites. Make very clear these issues are on the pet owner, not LOCSD. I have included verbiage from the FIDO Field website at the end of these comments. These are available online and for your consideration when you get to that stage of the project.

6. We had large concrete slabs and shade covers for both the small and large dog areas, located right by the entrance gates. That was a mistake. Everyone stood out in the middle of the areas to watch their dogs and did not use the really nice shade covers as constructed by Rotary. Keep the seating areas away from the entrance gates to avoid congestion; your seating area layouts look good.

7. Have multiple waste stations, AND pooper scoopers available. If people use the scoopers, it then reduces the number of plastic bags going into the waste. Locate stations such that only a short walk to each or people are lazy and often don't use them. In the sand the rake style poop scoopers work best vs just a flat blade type scooper.

8. Chain link is best material for the fencing for durability and visibility to allow review of other dogs in the park before you enter with your dog. Other dogs in the park will typically group around and overwhelm a new dog entering the gates. That is when conflicts often happen. If you have budget available, consider black vinyl coated chain link fabric, posts and hardware.

9. We had convenience of power close by and ran 120VAC to outdoor outlets at each shade structure. Helped with shade structure erection and future maintenance by the City of Folsom. However power availability could become an attractive nuisance for people coming in just to use this power. Was a common problem at the SBCC next door to your proposed dog park location, until we put metal, lockable covers over the outdoor outlets. Still many times we found the covers broken off so the local street population could use the power. The SBCC now locks off the breakers at the inside breaker panel. Pros and cons to the power argument.

10. Consider to enforce the 'no food in the dog park' rule. A good way to get unwanted attention from multiple dogs and cause competitive aggression between dogs all wanting the human food.

11. The FIDO Field park was a cooperative effort between the City of Folsom and FIDO. The initial labor was all volunteer, through drain piping excavation and installation, concrete sidewalks and concrete pads, and shade structures construction. After that the City found money for the fencing, irrigation and hydroseeding and bid out this work. Info about this park and many other dog parks and guidelines are available on line.

12. Below is text from the FIDO Field website (Fido Field, Folsom CA) which is also posted at the dog park entrance.

FIDO Field is an unmonitored city park facility. We ask that all visitors follow the FIDO Field rules to make sure that everyone can safely enjoy the park.

Top FIDO Field rules are listed below:

1. Owners use the park at their own risk. The City of Folsom is not responsible for injury or illness to dogs, owners, or visitors.
2. No children under the age of 15 are permitted unless accompanied by an adult. Children in strollers are prohibited from the fenced, off-leash dog area.
3. All dog handlers must carry a leash at all times and monitor their dog while in the facility. Prong collars are prohibited from the off-leash dog area. Dogs must be leashed while entering and exiting the facility.
4. Aggressive dogs are not permitted on the premises. Dogs must be removed at the first sign of aggression.
5. Owners must clean up after their dogs. Onsite amenities and disposal receptacles are provided.
6. Dogs that are sick, in season, or have excessive fleas or ticks are not permitted.
7. The gate must be closed immediately after entering or exiting the facility.
8. No food is allowed in the off-leash dog area.
9. No wading pools, furniture, or large basins are allowed in the off-leash dog area.
10. No tobacco products may be used in the off-leash dog area.
11. Proof of current animal license is required for use of FIDO Field (tags acceptable). Full vaccination series is recommended for your dog's health.

Failure to abide by the park rules may result in loss of privileges or owners may receive a citation. For more information, see Folsom Municipal Code: 7.04, 9.68; Sacramento County Animal Control Ordinance: Title 8.

Comments:

A dog park in Los Osos would be a great addition so that people no longer take their dogs to the middle school. I am glad it is gated. Please approve this.

Comments:	Hello - Long time dog owner and Dog Park Critic... The best parks have a lawn to run on. It doesn't matter how many amenities like benches, toy bins, dog zones etc that a Dog Park has if its primary surface for the dogs is wood chips or sand. Dogs choke and gasp when playing on wood chips or any surface that generates dust while palying. Our local sand in that exact spot is chalky and powdery - when dogs run on it to fetch or wrestle with each other they stop abruptly, change direction and roll around - generating a cloud of silica dust... it gets in their eyes and throat - in my personal experience leading to eye infections for my dog. When I look at the concept plan the first thing I see is the wrong surface for the dogs and that you are putting all this design effort into the "green" area with new trees and plantings all around the Dog Park. This approach puts all the money, water and maintenance into green decor and sells the dogs short on a proper surface to play on. Skip the decor that spot is already beautiful - give us a lawn for the dogs. The "native sands" idea is a non-starter for any person that knows dogs and has been to dog parks that got it all wrong.... Please whatever you do: NO WOOD CHIPS AND NO SAND.
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Comments:	We need a dog park in Los Osos We have the land and this will help every dog owner, I know my 2 dogs would frequent the park at least 3 days a week I would also volunteer to help will any work to help put together/maintenance Thank you
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Comments:	We really need a dog park! I'm all in 🌻
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Comments:	Would it be possible to put down some mulch rather than leaving it all sand? Maybe some if the local tree trimming companies could dump there and you could get some of us to come out and rake it? Also, I think you'll need more parking spots.
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Comments:	I appreciate the thought that has gone into this new plan, using more natural surfaces, less parking and more open space. I also appreciate the shade trees and benches provided for dog owners. A possible addition could be gathering areas with seating and native gardens in the unplanned area, for people to relax, visit, or read. Having a Dog Park in Los Osos will be greatly appreciated by many pet owners.
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