

8-4-23

Re: Proposed Changes to Edith Green Park

I am a dog owner who uses the off-leash area 4-6 times a week. The plan submitted has multiple flaws.

The plan reduces the off-leash area by nearly 75%. That will result in;

- The smaller size will create dog fights due to the overcrowding leaving no room to separate the dogs. At present one of the dogs involved is sent to the opposite side of the park while the issue passes. Typically, the owners engage their dog in a game of fetch giving them something else to concentrate on.
- Several of the owners are seniors who are not very mobile. For many of them, the dog park represents one of the few options they have for socializing as well as for their dogs. Quite a number of them get to the park via golf cart which will further congest an already too small space. The proposed plan will need to provide cart access to the off-leash area to accommodate the carts.
- The smaller size is quite likely to create a health hazard to the dogs, much like the one that sickened approximately 30 dogs at the smaller dog area in Memorial Park last year. The smaller area will end up being a muddy mess that will create standing water that will be home to the likes of Giardia the sent the dogs to a veterinarian. The park does not have proper drainage. Any approval needs to require a grading and drainage plan to be approved by the City of Wilsonville.

The solution is rather simple. Run a fence along a line parallel to the Bocce Ball court and pavilion. Install it in a north-south direction 20 feet from the courts to run from the hedges on either side of the park. That will keep dogs from affecting the Bocce Ball courts as well as the Pavilion and basketball court. Run the walking access from the street to the courts 20 feet from the hedge row on the south side of the park.

For neighborhood safety, run a fence all along the street so that no dogs can challenge pedestrians or chase bicyclists. It should have 2 gates or openings to allow access to the off-leash area.

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