



OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

OVERVIEW OF SEVEN STUDENT CAPSTONE PROJECTS



COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP

- Seven capstone students
- Three are local and four live outside the metro area (one in Maine)
- Two of the locals met with Liz and toured the potential sites

SAMPLE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Is there any interest in the city business community for a public-private partnership?
- What are the main advantages and disadvantages of constructing an off-leash dog park in the city of Apache Junction?
- How have other comparable cities raised funds to finance the construction and maintenance of an off-leash dog park?
- What are the sources of funding in four nearby cities?
- Does the proximity to an off-leash dog park increase exercise in dog owners?

STUDENTS' RESEARCH METHODS

- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- SWOT Analysis
- Survey of dog owners in the City of Apache Junction
- Interviews with city officials in neighboring cities

SAMPLE OF KEY FINDINGS

- Local dog owners most wanted a park with adequate water and shade
- Local dog owners also wanted a well-maintained park
- Local dog owners would be willing to pay a modest annual fee
- The City of Phoenix has successfully used the Mini-Grant program is to assist the development of small projects

SAMPLE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Size should be a minimum $\frac{1}{2}$ acre for large-breed dogs
- Size should be a minimum of $\frac{1}{4}$ acre for smaller-breed dogs
- Businesses like PetSmart, who funds a park in Phoenix, could be a source of funding
- According to the study and literature review, a dog training station is popular and functional for a dog park
- The City should utilize qualitative feedback by placing it on the agenda of a city council meeting, advertise on social media, and open a phone line for residents to call in to provide opinion



AN ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

TO CREATE AN OFF-LEASH DOG PARK IN
THE CITY OF APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA

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GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. What are the necessary features and key elements of a successful community off-leash dog park?
2. How did other Arizona cities locate the resources to build their off-leash facilities?
3. How can Apache Junction apply different fundraising strategies to raise the resources to construct its own dog park?

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

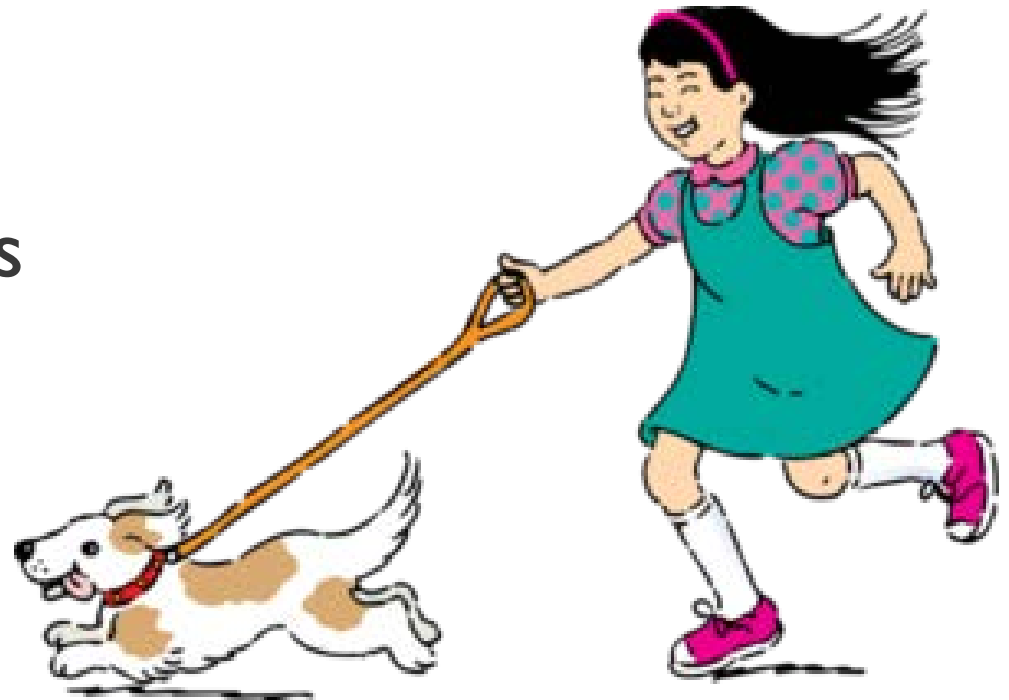
Objectives

- Conduct a comparative analysis of successful dog parks throughout Arizona cities near Apache Junction
- Propose a formal recommendation of how a cost-effective off-leash facility can be built in Apache Junction

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Literature Review

1. History of off-leash dog facilities
2. Health & social benefits
3. Barriers & risks



METHODS

City	Dog Park
Gilbert	Cosmo Dog Park
	Crossroads Park
Mesa	Countryside Park
	Quail Run Park
Chandler	Nozomi Park
	Shawnee Park

Table 1: Dog parks selected for comparative analysis and benchmarking.

METHODS

- 30 minutes of field observation at each dog park = 3 hours
- Matrix detailing park size, amenities, and other relevant information (Lee, Shepley, & Huang, 2009)
- Informal email communications with city Parks & Recreation officials

FINDINGS

Cosmo Dog Park (Gilbert)

- Opened in 2007
- 2 acres
- 4 separately fenced areas
- Has over 600,000 visitors each year (Town of Gilbert, 2017)



FINDINGS

Crossroads Dog Park (Gilbert)

- Opened in 1996
- 1 acre
- 2 separately fenced areas
- Information hub about dog services & community events



FINDINGS

Countryside Dog Park (Mesa)

- Opened in 2010
- 1.2 acres
- 2 separately fenced areas
- “Doggie Do’s and Doggie Don’ts” (City of Mesa, 2010)



FINDINGS

Quail Run Dog Park (Mesa)

- Opened in 2001
- 1.5 acres
- 2 separately fenced areas
- Built as part of the city's park masterplan



FINDINGS

Nozomi Dog Park (Chandler)

- Opened in 2004
- 0.83 acres
- 2 separately fenced areas, one for agility training
- Occasionally used for obedience & police K-9 training (City of Chandler, 2017a)



FINDINGS

Shawnee Dog Park (Chandler)

- Opened in 2000
- 2.21 acres
- 2 separately fenced areas, one for agility training
- Dog Waste Stations & Plastic Bag Recycling Program (City of Chandler, 2017b)



FINDINGS

- Double-gate system for entry/exit
- Chain-link perimeter fences
- Lighting
- Water sources
- Dog waste materials and receptacles
- Regulations & rules about appropriate park behavior

FINDINGS

- Popularity differences among dog parks



FINDINGS

- Varied water resources for hydration and playing



FINDINGS

- Fundraising strategies

1. Capital improvement plan (Cosmo)

2. Budgeted for as part of park masterplan (Countryside, Quail Run)

3. Park bond funds (Nozomi, Shawnee)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. At least one acre
2. Near a residential area, or an extension of a community park
3. Perimeter of the park = at least five feet high
4. Double-gated entrance/exit
5. At least one area for active dogs and one area for timid dogs

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Notice of assumed risk for owners
2. Assumed responsibility of dogs
3. Licensure, vaccination, visible tag requirements
4. Recommendations for dogs to be spayed/neutered
5. Age minimum for dogs & children
6. Food, alcohol, and beverage restrictions
7. Aggressive behavior restrictions for dogs
8. Requirements that owners clean up after their dogs



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Water fountain
2. Waste receptacles
3. Some form of shading & seating



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Consider cost-saving actions on other projects
2. Fundraising plan using bonds
3. Involve the community with minor fundraising initiatives

RECOMMENDATIONS



REFERENCES

- City of Chandler. (2017a). Dog parks. *City of Chandler Official Website*. Retrieved from <http://www.chandleraz.gov/default.aspx?pageid=290>.
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- City of Mesa. (2010). Mesa opens second dog park [Press release].
- Lee, H., Shepley, M., & Huang, C. (2009). Evaluation of off-leash dog parks in Texas and Florida: A study of use patterns, user satisfaction, and perception. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 92(3), 314-324.
- Town of Gilbert. (2017). Cosmo dog park. *City of Gilbert Official Website*. Retrieved from <https://www.gilbertaz.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks-facility-rentals/parks-info-ramada-rentals/parks/cosmo-dog-park>.