

Park and Recreation Commission  
Green Dog Subcommittee Site Visits  
Thursday, April 4, 2019  
8:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Starting at  
Town Hall, Parking Lot

**Subcommittee Members Present:** Daniel Lyons, Nancy O'Connor, Nancy Madden, Rob Daves and Laurie Lasky

**Subcommittee Members Absent:** Sue Levy, John Bain, Jim Lyons, Michael Hackel

**Staff Present:** Jessica Zarni, Administrative Assistant, Alex Cassie, Park Ranger, Evan Tibbetts, General Foreman, Erin Gallentine, Parks and Open Space Director

**Guests Present:** see attached

### **Welcome**

The Green Dog Advisory Subcommittee conducted site visits during their April 4, 2019 meeting. The purpose of these visits is to look at each of these sites as a group and discuss whether the site remains suitable as a Green Dog location, review location of signage, discuss any complaints typical to each park, discuss possible fenced in areas that could be open dawn to dusk and to discuss addition of locations to the Green Dog Program.

#### **Emerson**

- Green Dog Hours are Dawn to 9
- Open Lawn (small) .92 acres
- A. Cassie detailed the existing field conditions
- A. Cassie stated that there are almost no issues at this location
- The neighborhood is very well organized and has a close forum for communication
- It values as a shared space and fits the Green Dog model perfectly
- It is not a programmed sports field, but has many informally programmed sports
- There are many community events at this location/heavily used lawn area
- Huge Daycare destination

#### **Brookline Avenue Playground**

- Green Dog Hours are Dawn to 1, dawn to dusk ( winter)
- The Green Dog Space is 1.75 acres
- The field uses/primary field users were detailed
- This is the most heavily used Green Dog Park
- The issues with this park are lack of program registration, holes/field damage, field closure compliance and evening off leash hours.

- A. Cassie stated that this location has more dog fights than any other Green Dog Location.
- This location is constantly getting requests for double gates
- The dogs do significant damage to this field.
- E. Gallentine stated that her staff has many issues with dogs at this location
- There is no place for a dog run at this location because of how the fields are lined for sports

### Boylston Street Playground

- Green Dog Hours are Dawn to 9
- The field conditions/uses/ field users were detailed
- The Green Dog Space is .59 acres
- The issues at this location are holes field damage and field closure compliance
- The 0.18 acre potential fenced in dog run location was discussed
- The location has gotten spill over from Emerson
- Boylston Street Playground is up for Design Review for full renovation in 3 years
- The gates added to this location for Green Dog were discussed

### Margaret E. Robinson Playground

- Green Dog Hours dawn to 9
- Not a huge Green Dog presence
- A. Cassie discussed the issues this location has with having the dogs run in the multi-use court and some violations for evening hours
- Robinson has design money in the CIP this upcoming year
- There were two options proposed for possible dog runs, a .14 acre area where the multi-use court is and a .30 acres area along the side of the park.

### Harry Downes Field

- Green Dog Hours are Dawn to 1, dawn to dusk ( winter)
- A. Cassie stated that you see a lot of noncompliance at this location. There are issues with program registration, holes/field damage, field closure compliance and evening off leash use.
- There is a strong community core group that is working on changing the culture.
- Enforcement will be key at this location

### Pond Avenue and Chestnut Street

- The subcommittee took a look at this parking lot (.23) as a possible place to put an off leash area to take pressure off Downes

- This is a parking area for Downes and for the Emerald Necklace. The general feeling was that this is a highly used/necessary parking area.
- E. Gallentine asked the subcommittee members to keep their eyes open for any opportunity around Town they may see as an opportunity for a private use agreement for a potential dog run/off leash area.

#### Larz Anderson

- Green Dog Hours are Dawn to 1, dawn to dusk ( winter)
- There are issues with, people not cleaning up after their dogs, a lot of owners not keeping track of their dog and program registration
- The repaving of the roads was discussed
- This location is a true destination
- Parking was discussed
- Two possible locations for potential dog runs were visited

#### Putterham Woods

- The New Friends Group of Putterham Woods was discussed.
- This was a possible .89 acres area for an enclosed dog run
- The Town Arborist had looked at this location and he explained that there is significant tree damage; hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of tree work would need to be done in order to make it safe.
- This would have to be a big Capital project with a vision of what could happen there.

#### Soule Recreation Center

- Green Dog Hours Dawn to 9
- Dog Impact and usage is minimal
- The back left corner .18 acres was looked at by the Subcommittee for a potential enclosed dog run.

#### Warren Playground and Eliot Playground

- Green Dog Hours Dawn to 1
- A potential .36 acre for an enclosed dog run was looked at by the Subcommittee
- One of the main issues with the Green Dog Program at this location is people think the whole park is off leash.

#### Little Field

- This is a beautiful open law area with amazing oak trees
- A lot of people seem to drop their kids off at school and run their dogs there.
- E. Gallentine would like for the Subcommittee to think about if they would like to make this a legal part of the green Dog Program.

#### Waldstein Playground

- Green Dog Hours dawn to 9
- There are issues with program registration, holes/field damage and dogs outside Green Dog hours at this location.
- This location is on the edge of Town
- There are lots of problems with dogs running the tennis courts at this location
- A .22 acre area was looked at as a potential fenced in dog run
- There were some trees pointed out that T. Brady should assess

#### Fisher Hill

- There are constant issues with dogs off leash at this location

#### Schick Park

- Green Dog Hours dawn to 9
- There are issues with holes field/damage and dog outside Green Dog areas at this location
- The field does hold water, stay wetter longer than other fields
- A fenced in potential .13 acre dog run area was looked at

#### Griggs Park

- Green Dog hours are dawn to 1
- There are issues with holes/field damage, field closure compliance, evening off-leash use and dogs outside Green dog areas at this location
- Alex discussed the neighborhood group at Griggs
- A potential fenced in .33 acre dog run are was looked at

#### Coolidge Playground

- Green Dog Hours dawn to 9
- There are issues with program registration, holes/field damage, field closure compliance, evening off-leash use and dogs outside Green Dog Areas at this location
- The police calls re: Green Dog at this location were discussed
- There are complaints about dogs/feces in or around the Playground space

- The options for potential fenced in dog runs were looked at

#### Knyvet Square

- This location was looked at to consider making it an off leash Green Dog Location
- It is a passive park
- It is a historic and quiet location

#### Amory Playground

- Green Dog hours are Dawn to 1pm
- There are issues with, program registration, holes/field damage, field closure compliance and evening off-leash use at this location