

Dog Park Task Force Agenda
October 2, 2019
6:30pm
Takiff Center

- I. Discuss articles and comments on dog parks
 - a. Katie Sweeney, Glencoe Public Safety Community Service Officer available to answer any questions in relation to her experience as Glencoe Animal Control Officer

- II. Site Selection Discussion

- III. Review draft neighborhood letter and survey
 - a. Discuss delivery range for letter and survey

- IV. Next meeting date and steps

I. Discuss articles and comments on dog parks

Dog Park Task Force Meeting
October 2, 2019

A controversial dog park that divided Chevy Chase will be dismantled

By **Jessica Contrera**
September 10

More than 100 people packed into a public hearing in Chevy Chase Village on Monday to debate what one board member called “the most contentious and emotionally charged issue” in the community’s history: the barking of dogs.

The village board voted 5 to 2 in favor of disestablishing the dog park that has divided this Maryland suburb for months. The gate of the fence enclosing the area will be removed, turning it into a park where dogs are welcome but must be leashed.

“The size and location of this off-leash area is not meeting standards,” board chairwoman Elissa Leonard said before a chorus of boos from dozens of dog lovers who wore matching white hats to show their support of the park.

“You should be ashamed of yourselves!” someone from the crowd yelled before leading a mass exodus from the meeting.



The decision put an end to months of howling from the humans in this wealthy enclave just outside Washington. What began as a plan to turn a patch of land frequented by local pups into a formal dog park became a breeding ground for animal animus.

Neighbors who live directly beside the park complained that they found their lives disrupted by the barking dogs, the carelessness of their companions and the nuisance of outsiders' cars parked in front of their homes.

The tension escalated when The Washington Post published [a story about the divisions](#), chronicling the powerful players embroiled in the debate: Leonard, the wife of Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell; Doug Gansler, a former attorney general of Maryland; loads of lawyers; and Chubbs, a 5-month-old golden retriever.



While Chubbs has been rolling in his [newfound fame](#) (dog sitters on Rover.com contacted his parents to ask whether he was *the* Chubbs), neighbors who opposed the dog park found themselves being threatened by anonymous commenters online. They said strangers have driven past their houses to beep, yell and create even more noise.

Dog owners shared the address of the park on Reddit to encourage people with particularly vociferous pooches to visit. Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-Md.) brought his 3-year-old Siberian husky, Toby, to the park to sniff out the situation. The president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, better known as PETA, sent a letter reminding the board that dog parks are the “canine version of a human happy hour.”

By the time the board convened Monday to make its decision about the park's fate, it had received more than 110 pages of letters filled with extensive bulleted lists, references to research journals and analyses of canine bowel movements.

“For the sake of the total living environment of the Village, resist the forces of NIMBY and keep the dog park open,” one neighbor wrote.

“My friends and I will leave no stone, I mean tennis ball unturned in our dogged opposition to the proposal to close the park,” declared a “press release” sent by one

resident, Patty Martin, in the voice of her French bulldog Louie.



On Monday night, 12 people lined up to voice their support of the park in person, despite pleading from the board that only those who had yet to submit comments take the microphone.

“The dogs are voices of living beings,” said Judi Dash, a resident wearing a “Make Woof Not War” T-shirt. “The nice people who live behind me [do carpentry] in the summer, spring and fall. It’s really loud. Should I tell him to hammer less?”

Their poetic odes to the park weren’t persuasive enough to those in power.

“I saw Chubbs and Louie play together before they were internationally famous, and I would challenge even the staunchest critics of the park to keep smiles off their face when watching those two. But on the other hand,” board treasurer Gary Crockett said, “there’s only so much you can do when you have maybe 10 or more dogs in the park at one time that are three feet from someone’s backyard.”

“I move to disestablish — ” board member Richard Ruda began.

“Louder, please!” a voice yelled from the back of the room.

“Okay,” he said. “Sorry about that. Are you sure you want to hear this?”

“No!” cried a chorus.

“Okay, sorry I asked,” he said. “I move to disestablish the dog area, effective immediately.”

After the vote, Leonard tried to reassure the park’s fans that the village manager had spoken with Montgomery County officials, who are planning to build additional dog

parks in the area soon. But the dog lovers were already storming out of the building. They surrounded Martin, who was devastated.

“I don’t know how I am going to break this to Louie,” she said.

By the next morning, the park gates would be taken off their hinges. The dog owners would be plotting puppy play dates in their backyards.

“Someone joked that we should have more community crises to bring us together,” Dash would write in a late-night email to her neighbors. “You are the real heart of Chevy Chase Village, and have my vote as board members come the next opportunity.”

For now, the board carried on with its business.

“We have to move on to the next item on our agenda,” Leonard told the remaining crowd. “The noise of gas-powered leaf blowers.”

‘NO EXCESSIVE BARKING’: A Chevy Chase dog park divides the rich and powerful

By **Jessica Contrera**

August 28, 2019 at 6:00 a.m. CDT

Everyone knows there’s a problem with Chubbs.

Dirt is smeared across his face. His tongue is rolling out of his mouth. He’s surrounded by signs that say “NO EXCESSIVE BARKING.”

But the 5-month-old golden retriever does not know how to read. At a dog park in one of Maryland’s wealthiest suburbs, he spends this sunny August morning rolling on his back. He opens his mouth, and then, he does it.

He woofs. Twice.

“CHUBBS!” four humans around him yell, trying to stop him from doing what dogs do — just not in Chevy Chase Village this summer.

Here in this community of the rich and powerful, where the average household income is \$460,000, barking is the subject of a ferocious (fur-ocious?) debate — one that has divided the two-legged one-percenters for nearly a year.



The drama began last fall when the village spent \$134,000 to turn a muddy triangle of land into a park where pups could run off-leash in a fenced refuge. Chase tennis balls. Sniff one another's butts.

But after about a month, signs decrying the barking of those dogs began appearing around the park. The village police started receiving almost daily calls about the noise, mostly from one particular neighbor whose house backs up to the park. By spring, the tension had escalated so much that the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers called a public hearing. Then another in June. And another in July.

At the center of it all is Elissa Leonard, chair of the village board and wife to Jerome H. Powell, who is also a chair — of the Federal Reserve. In recent months, her husband has been under attack from President Trump, who appointed him but blames him for the tanking stock market. “My only question is, who is our bigger enemy, Jay Powell or Chairman Xi?” the president tweeted Friday.



Leonard, meanwhile, is on the receiving end of a different siege: from village residents who say their peace and quiet has been disturbed by barking dogs.

“Around dinner time, I’d like to be able to sit on my deck and maybe read a book and chat with a friend or have a glass of wine, and the dogs are barking,” Joanie Edwards, the neighbor who had been calling police, testified at the meeting in May.

“As residents of Chevy Chase, how many times is it acceptable for you to be bothered in your house every day?” Tom Bourke, a real estate developer whose house sits across the street from the park, asked in June. “You’ve created a nuisance.”

The park regulars, he acknowledged, were trying to hush their hounds. He heard that they were ostracizing the yappiest dogs, including, he told the board, “a certain standard poodle whose name should be withheld.”



“But there are people,” chimed in Bourke’s wife, Dale, “and I don’t mean to characterize the District, but I just notice that they have District plates on their cars, and they have very little regard for us or our property . . . there are dogs barking and they’re just not doing anything.”

“I *hear* you,” Leonard said again and again, with the patience of a dog trainer. She explained to the residents that no, they could not restrict access just to dogs from the immediate neighborhood (where the houses for sale currently range in price from \$1.1 million to \$22.5 million). The village purchased this 15,000-square-foot parcel of land in the 1980s, in part, using state money, so it had to remain open to the public. For years, it had been a favorite spot of local dog owners, so when the village wanted to update its parks, a dog park just made sense. Neighbors voiced their support. A unanimous vote followed.

But now the park was somehow both a wild canine circus sabotaging property values and a beloved gathering space for only the politest of pooches.



Leonard, whose Norwich terrier, Pippa, does not frequent the park, tried to make both sides happy. To limit barking in the early hours, the board changed the opening time from 7 to 8 a.m. To stop outsiders from driving to Chevy Chase Village and parking on the Bourkes' street — taking the spots where the family liked their lawn maintenance service to park — the dog park was wiped from the village website. To determine the extent of the barking and the parking, the board paid \$1,300 for a woman with a graduate degree in epidemiology to spend weeks studying the behavior of the dogs and their humans.

During 54 visits, the researcher witnessed seven dog owners who drove to the park instead of walking.

“One of these people,” she testified in June, “did allow his dog to relieve himself on the green space next to the street.”



But on the barking, no conclusion was reached. What was minimal to some was enough for Edwards to call the police, exasperated that she had to turn on music inside her home so she didn't have to hear the dogs. She doesn't want to be the bad guy, she said in an interview. But as a retired elementary school teacher, she now spends her days at home painting. She does landscapes from her travels and portraits of people, vibrant creations so popular in her circle that friends and strangers have also commissioned her to paint their most beloved companions: their pets.

She and her husband, a lawyer, used to have dogs of their own. Her last, a black lab named Zoe, died four years ago.

“People in the community keep saying, ‘She should get another dog, if she had a dog, it would be different,’ ” Edwards said. “Well, first of all, I am a very considerate person, and if I had a dog, and he was barking in my back yard, I would bring him in. If my children were in a restaurant crying, I would take them out.”

The fence, she says, should come down, so the dog park is just a park. At a public hearing on Sept. 9, Leonard and the board may decide to do just that.

The dog lovers are planning to crowd the hearing, have organized a letter-writing campaign and started a Facebook group, Save the Chevy Chase Dog Park, with more than 100 likes.

“What are they going to do next, ban dancing?” asked Pat Murphy, the group’s moderator. Murphy, who lives in a nearby section of Chevy Chase, says he literally does “not have a dog in this fight.” He does not own a dog. He used to take his son’s miniature Australian shepherd to the park, but his son moved away this summer. Now he sometimes walks alone to the park, where every morning, the conversation returns to the handful of complaining neighbors.

“They should be put in jail,” said Doug Gansler, a former Maryland attorney general and an unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate, while his King Charles spaniel, Jack, searched for a new dog to hump.

“Doug!” scolded Patty Martin, mother to the park’s unofficial mayor, a French bulldog named Louie, and wife to the head of gastroenterology at Washington Hospital Center. She, too, thought the complainers were being selfish.

“Where’s the democratic process?” Martin asked in an interview last week. “Why is the 1 percent deciding for the 99 percent?”

“This is not verified,” she continued, “But we have heard through reliable sources that this woman has threatened a lawsuit against the village over the park. Well, many dog park users are lawyers, too, so we’re wondering, should we get a lawyer? Do we have grounds to sue?”

While lawyers consulted lawyers, her husband contacted media outlets. Eventually, the story made its way to this reporter, and to her recently adopted mutt, who visited the park in hopes of sniffing out what was really going on.

Despite their owners' fretting, Chubbs, Jack, Louie and all the other dogs appear unaware that their joyful morning romp has caused such a kerfuffle. The aforementioned "standard poodle whose name should be withheld" did not make an appearance.

After this reporter's dog spent some time digging (for the truth, we presume), he was asked what he thought of the park.

He woofed. Twice.

The police did not arrive.

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I am unable to attend the meeting on Feb 12, however I am very much in favor of having the Park District establish and maintain a dog park for Village residents. At present, my wife and I pay a fee and travel to Highland Park to exercise our dog in the Highland Park dog park. To our thinking, the establishment of a dog park by the Glencoe Park District, for the benefit of Glencoe residents is long overdue. As you know, we have extensive park land within the Village. I leave it to the Park District to determine the optimal location for the dog park. Our Village isn't too big, so anywhere in the Village would be acceptable. You just need to have an adequate supply of parking proximate to the dog park in the event that our residents would choose to drive to the dog park rather than walk there from their homes. In our view, the establishment of a dog park should be the Park District's highest priority. Please feel free to contact us to follow up.

Follow up e-mail: Thanks very much, Lisa. I've lived in Glencoe for over 50 years, so I know the community well. I know that you have other priorities that are also important, and can only accomplish so much with limited financial and other resources, but I really do think that the addition of a dog park is compelling. My wife and/or I walk our dog through Glencoe about 5 miles every day. We encounter lots of fellow residents who are out with their dogs. Among the Glencoe families with dogs (I don't know the percentage, but you could easily check to see how many dogs are registered with the Village), the desire for a dog park is extremely high. Our Park District is amazing; the breadth and quality of facilities and services for a community of our small size is very rare, as you well know. However, the omission of a dog park is glaring. In my view, you've got plenty of land to choose from. I know that there will likely be vocal objections from several residents who will complain about expected noise and barking. As someone who spends quite a bit of time in the Highland Park dog park, I can tell you that there is a surprisingly small amount of barking. That always amazes me. One potentially good location would be just east of the train tracks, a block or two north of the train station. There is one block in particular which is clear of trees and about the right size for a dog park (which should probably be two contiguous parks, one each for small and large dogs, as in Highland Park). Plenty of parking right across the street (the northern end of Old Green Bay has no train commuter parkers). Any complaint from a neighbor in that neighborhood about noise would be disingenuous: they live right across the street from an active train track! Did they not know that 15+ trains go by there every day when they bought their houses? I'm happy to provide more input, if desired. Sorry that I will miss the community forum on Feb 12th.

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Oh my gosh glad it's back on agenda. We talked about this several years ago. Not sure why it's taking so long. Yes dog park. But only if it costs next to nothing. Folks we have got to get handle on park district expenses and sources of funding. My taxes are outrageous as are your taxes. It's a real issue...(comments continued on taxes)

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We cannot make the meeting, but we would like to share our opinion: A dog park would be a great addition to our community! In addition to being a nice benefit for the dogs of Glencoe, it is a great opportunity for members of our neighborhood to meet and connect, fostering a wonderful sense of community. The dog swim at the Glencoe beach this past summer was packed with dogs and owners alike - a huge success and indicator of need.

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Hi, I think the dog park should be on the east side of the train tracks near Dennis, Lincoln Ave. I understand residents do not want barking dogs early or late. Limit hours to 8:00-6:00?

- [REDACTED]:
No to use of public funds or land for those with dogs. Glencoe parks and land belong to people. Yards are very large, and Glencoe is not a concrete jungle. For those who feel their yards and areas in Glencoe to walk dogs are not enough, donate land and property for a park and use your own funds.

- [REDACTED]:
*Hello! We cannot attend the meeting but wanted to provide feedback on this topic. We moved to Glencoe in 2017 and have said out loud that a dog park is the only thing the community is missing! When living downtown, we went often and it's a wonderful gathering and social place.
My recommendation is to have one area for small dogs, and one area for large. I've seen this be a much better success than one area for all. Also recommend benches under shaded areas or a permanent tent, the water bowl that refills itself, fake or real boulders for people to sit on and the dogs to play on. Excited to hear what comes of the meeting!*

- [REDACTED]:
I am all for a Dog Park in Glencoe. Currently, we are forced to go to neighboring communities for all dog park facilities. Many of these communities - HP and Winnetka - charge for the use of the parks. It would be a great community asset and foster interactions between pets and owners. An added bonus would be if it had lake access!

- [REDACTED]:
I would LOVE to have a dog park in Glencoe! Maybe it could be part of Shelton Park; along Forestway; or the park above Glencoe beach. I have a conflict with the meeting on February 12 but would appreciate being kept in the loop on this!

- [REDACTED]:
I cannot attend the meeting on the 2nd, but just wanted to say I would love a dog park in our community. It would be great to have a place where dogs can be dogs and socialize. Thanks for putting it on the agenda.

- [REDACTED]:
Thank-you!! (with a cute picture of their dog)

- [REDACTED]:
I would love a local dog park so my pup can have some free reign exercise. Given Glencoe's size, I would like it to be secure (key fob) and limited to Glencoe residents. Let me know how I can help. I am not available the evening of the 12th.

- [REDACTED]:
I cannot make the meeting for this, but wanted to share my thoughts as a current Glencoe resident. I strongly believe there should be a dog park in Glencoe. Would be an AMAZING addition to this wonderful town. Some thoughts:
Rationale for having a Glencoe dog park:
Solves a problem - there's currently no good place to let dogs run free. Maybe Northbrook/Glenview is the closest town with a dog park?
 - *Having a dog park would be one more selling point for families looking to move to the area. "Beautiful beach, charming downtown, friendly dog park, great schools, easy access to highways...Glencoe has it all".*

- *Reduces risk - right now there are a lot of people that unleash their dogs in open areas. Having a dedicated dog park, especially if fenced, would give those people a place to let their dogs run free, without the risk they run away or attack some person/child. It's the same reason there are public restrooms...without them, it would be a messy situation in the parks!*
- *There appears to be several parks in Glencoe that largely go unused by the greater community. This would solve a problem, increase utilization of the parks, create more appeal for buyers, likely increase tax revenue (see below), etc.*
- *Perhaps you create a locked fence with a key code, and anyone that wants to use it must sign a waiver - reduces any risk that anti-dog people will inevitably bring up to justify their position.*
- *It will create a more fun and vibrant community. Only positive things will come of that. The benefits FAR exceed any downside.*

Location recommendation:

- *Kalk Park, because*
 - *Lot of people currently use it as a dog park right now...clearly the location is ideal*
 - *Easily accessible for residents*
 - *Not a lot of homes nearby, so barking less of an issue/nuisance*
 - *if a dog gets loose, would be easy to track down*
 - *It's not a park that has a lot of kids equipment, less kids hanging out there, less risk a dog gets loose bites or knocks over some kid/. Highly unlikely, but puts the risk very close to 0.*
 - *Far from Skokie Lagoons, which are notoriously filled with ticks...and if a dog got lost in the lagoons would be very hard to find*
 - *Close to downtown Glencoe, would increase foot traffic in the down town shops, ideally resulting in more shopping and thus higher tax revenue for the village*
 - *Ton of open space, much of which is currently unused*
 - *Plenty of parking for those needing to drive*
- *Alternative locations if Kalk Park won't work:*
 - *the [bluff] above Glencoe beach (next to or behind the tennis courts) would be amazing. The image of dogs playing, with the backdrop of lake Michigan would be idealistic, solidifying the beauty and family friendly environment*
 - *Berlin Park - Lot of the same reasons Kalk Park would make sense, but maybe located too close to areas where a lot of young kids hang out.*

I'm a fairly new resident with a young family, I really think a dog park would create a lot of good in the area for sure. Would get a ton of utilization and create a lot of vibrancy/smiles. Most parks (except Friends park and the beach) are only used by the 4-5 homes within a 1 minute walk. This would bring the whole dog community together in one spot. I really hope it happens. Happy to discuss via phone (or email) if there's any other input I can offer.

● *[REDACTED]:*
I won't be able to make the meeting, but here are my thoughts. I feel strongly against a dog park. I am a dog owner, but dog parks are smelly and dirty. Glencoe has an informal meeting place for dog owners (Watts mornings both on the weekdays and weekends). Glencoe has many beautiful parks and paths. Things that attract new home buyers are beautiful parks for their young kids which Glencoe has done a wonderful job developing and updating. A dog park will not increase home purchases in the neighborhood and it will be a smelly, dirty place. There are several places to bring a dog in the neighborhood and surrounding communities. We do not need to add a dog park.

- [REDACTED]:
I will be unable to attend the meeting for a dog park on 2/12. I will be out of town. Here are some thoughts....
 - *I am all for a dog park in Glencoe.*
 - *Best to have a dog park on the beach...maybe an area by Dell Place beach (parking may be an issue)?*
 - *If not the beach, maybe adjacent to the Metra tracks...*
 - *Is it possible to lease space at the Cook County Preserve? Turnbull Woods? Mary Mix McDonald Woods? Around Little House? Along Frontage Road near the water tower?**It should be large enough for larger dogs.*

- [REDACTED]:
I am opposed to a dog park in Glencoe.

- [REDACTED]:
Good afternoon. Thanks for considering a dog park in glencoe. I have a few ideas/opinions I will share below:
 - *ideally a space that could accommodate two areas- one for larger dogs who like to run, and a smaller space for small dogs.*
 - *keycard entry*
 - *dog waste dispenser*
 - *some benches*
 - *ideally a space with shade*
 - *ideally a central location*
 - *double-gate system so that dogs can't escape when others enter/exit*
 - *if there was a water hose available for drinks and rinsing off paws*
 - *it be great to find a way to make sure only well-socialized, non-aggressive dogs can enter*
 - *glencoe residents only*

- [REDACTED]:
Thank You for considering a Dog Park in Glencoe! It's a fabulous idea. We own a 1.5 year old Golden Retriever and I would use the park several days per week.

- [REDACTED]:
Hello: In response to the possibility of a dog park in Glencoe, my feelings would be a resounding YES!!! Some of my reasons are:
 - 1. It is needed.*
 - 2. It is beneficial to both dogs and humans, in many ways.*
 - 3. It is a great way to really meet neighbors.*
 - 4. It is safer than many other ways to exercise your pet!*
 - 5. It adds assets to the community, which is already great...yet could always be better.*
 - 6. It would make me and many others very happy!**I am out of town or I would be at the meeting.*
Thank you !!

- [REDACTED]:
Would love to see a dog park in Glencoe... many of us have trekked miles away and paid stiff fees to use other venues such as the Lake county dog parks in Bannockburn and Libertyville, and dog beaches in surrounding communities. No reason we can't have a dog park in Glencoe; for example, land at the top of the beach, or as a fenced off area near the Glencoe golf club. There could be separate sections for large and smaller dogs like the Northbrook dog park on Dundee. We have filled out many surveys asking for a dog park so let's get started!
Thanks for your consideration!

• [REDACTED]:
*Hi, I live by Watts park. I would like to give my input about a dog park. I think we badly need this as a community. I see people daily with their dogs off leash at Watts. I have a 7 pound dog and am terrified of my dog getting attacked by off leash dogs. I have called public safety in the past over this. I am also fearful as my husband was bitten while jogging by an off leash dog at Watts park. This was around 5 years ago or so. It was handled by public safe and court, but still makes us both very nervous when we see off leash constantly. I also work at South school and see that children are walking home through the park when school is out and people still keep their dogs off leash. I don't really know how much it is enforced and know it is not possible to watch the park all the time. In the summer it's a problem. Hopefully depending on where the dog park is this will give people a chance to have their dogs off leash safely and legally.
Thank you!*

• [REDACTED]:
I love dogs, cats, fish, and birds. We had them all. Having said that, we don't need a Dog Park. If the Park District has left over money and want to improve Glencoe, here are a few ideas. (1) Three new benches between Harbor and Jackson. (2) When trimming the tress on Green Bay cleaned the area not just the big pieces, but all around it. (3) Clean the sanctuary, spring is coming and the daffodil is having a hard time coming up because of all the mulch that has never been removed over the last 34 years. (4) Free Beach Passes for seniors (how many would that be - a 100? I don't think so). Having a Dog Park will not change anything. You will have the people that come out at night and let their dogs go in front of your house and not clean up. And who will pay for the clean up? Me the tax payer. I have paid taxes for the last 36 years. I am one of many that made Glencoe great. Its time to give some back. So if you have the extra cash, think of us so we can continue to stay in Glencoe. Perhaps you should have a work shop of how to take your dog for a walk and clean after yourself. We don't need a Park we need common sense. Thank you.

• [REDACTED]:
I am not interested in a dog park. I would rather see the money spent on something that could benefit everyone in the community - like a pool.

• [REDACTED]:
*I believe that it is very important that Glencoe have a dog park that will allow families with dogs to enjoy the community even more. I am very enthusiastic about this
Thank you*

• [REDACTED]:
I think it would be a good idea. Hopefully it will be large enough for bigger dogs to run and will have a grassy area. I live in the city but work here and have thought of moving here with my dog.

• [REDACTED]:
*Hello, Unfortunately, I'm not able to attend the meeting next week, but I appreciate the initiative by the GPD If I was able to attend, I would have this to say:
I'm in favor of a dog park and would hope it would be located in a generally enclosed (either natural or unnatural barriers) area;*

- 1. I don't have many ideas as to the best location in which to place the park as I'm sure there will be objections by others to place it near existing playgrounds, streets and railroads, which I understand;*
- 2. I would be in favor of allowing dogs at Glencoe Beach only during off-season, when the beach is closed. I see people doing this anyway, but have heard of people being cited by Public Safety. I can understand being cited if an owner doesn't pick up after their dog, but this is a wide open, enclosed area that seems perfect for dogs. Again, thank you for the initiative in raising this idea and the invitation to participate.*

• [REDACTED]:
Good afternoon,

As I am unable to attend next week's meeting on whether or not the Park District should consider getting a dog park, I would like to provide some comments. As your meeting notice indicated you would only be considering the use of property owned by the Park District, rather than Cook County or the Village, I will limit my comments accordingly.

My family and I are very much in favor of adding a dog park in our community. We have lived in Glencoe since 2012 and have had a dog for approximately 5 years.

While the number can be verified through the Village's annual animal registration requirement, it does appear a significant percentage of Village residents are dog owners. However, Glencoe is one of the few North Shore communities that lack any approved off-leash location. Neighboring locations which do have dog parks either impose a steep upcharge to non-residents to deter usage, or bar non-residents from using the facilities outright. For example, Highland Park's dog park is 3 times the annual cost to a non-resident. Winnetka's non-resident charge is 4 times the resident rate. Northbrook's dog park is only available to its residents.

We live in a very pedestrian friendly community, and I believe our residents would benefit from a local dog park. Your meeting notice asks if there should be a "minimum size" for a dog park. I am sure you could retain a consultant who would opine that any park less than an acre (which we are unlikely to have available) is not worth building. To my knowledge, there is no existing law which imposes a minimum size for a dog park. In the City of Chicago, there are dog parks as small as 0.07 acres. See <https://windycitypaws.com/chicago-dog-parks-guide/>. I want to suggest that trying to identify the appropriate size of a dog park, and then trying to identify available space of that size, is the wrong approach, and one which will likely allow opponents to declare the construction of a dog park is infeasible. Rather, determine whether there is a need/desire for a dog park, and then identify potential locations. The ideal size should not dictate whether this is a resource that we can or cannot have in our community. In as fully developed a community as our own, with limited unused green space, defining a minimum size of a dog park would drive a results oriented approach against the creation of a dog park. Any park, even if smaller than one that would be constructed in the absence of size limitations, would be preferable than the absence of any dog park.

My suggestion would be to re-purpose a part of an existing park to add a dog park. More specifically, I would be in favor of re-purposing and expanding the footprint of one of the many tennis courts within our various parks. At present, Glencoe has 14 tennis courts spread over 5 parks (2 Shelton; 4 Central; 2 Watts; 3 Lakefront; and 3 West). This is in addition to the 6 paddle tennis courts in Winnetka, which are available to Glencoe residents at resident rates, as well as the indoor courts at Deer Creek Racquet Club in Highland Park, at which our residents also enjoy preferred residential rates. It strikes me that our residents have access to a sizable number of courts, both within the confines of the Village and immediately outside of it, either for free or at resident rates.

I would encourage the Park District to share its data on the utilization of its existing outdoor courts, and/or advise if it even tracks the utilization of these tennis courts. From my own observations, they collectively appear to be highly underutilized, or being utilized by third parties to run lessons, by all appearances, for their own profit. My understanding is the Park District derives no revenue from these courts, which appear to be available without any usage fee. In contrast, a dog park would allow the Park District to collect registration fees, and create another source of income. These are also facilities that are not utilized during the off-season. At present, dog owners frequently, and apparently illegally, allow their dogs off-leash in these courts during the off-season. I suggest the Park District evaluate the usage at the tennis courts at these locations to determine whether the elimination of one of these locations in favor of a dog park would result in any meaningful impact on existing users. My suspicion is that the remaining courts, were one location to be re-purposed, could easily absorb the existing total usage. Furthermore, since those locations already have high fences, it is unlikely neighbors would have much in a way of a valid objection to the installation of perimeter fencing (which would in fact be of a lower height than the existing tennis fencing). I believe other communities use key fobs to regulate access to registered users, and to restrict usage during approved daytime hours, so as to limit any impact on surrounding neighbors. I would like to thank the Park District for identifying a need for a new service in our community. Thank you for your consideration.

• **Susan Isaacson:**

I am so glad I got a chance to speak with you yesterday about the potential for a dog park in Glencoe. It is something our family has been interested in for over 10 years. We have followed this initiative as explored in the park district planning process and have offered inputs in previous public meetings.

Here is a summary of the inputs I shared with you. I hope you will consider these as I will not be able to make the public meeting on the 12th. I will be happy to be involved anyway that is helpful going forward.

Pros:

- *Gives residents a safe environment to exercise dogs off leash and provides a safe space for pets to engage in helpful social interaction; off leash exercise provides both behavioral and physical benefits for dogs*
- *Offers residents a destination to interact with their neighbors and other community members and their pets*
- *Allows for a regular and convenient off leash experience*
- *Helps public safety control off leash activity, by providing residents with a sanctioned space for this activity; could also provide a mechanism for discouraging non-residents from using the beach area for this purpose*

Cons:

- *Residents in close proximity to the dog park may not like to see or hear dogs using the park or the added congestion in their neighborhood due to the use of the park*
- *There may be increased dog waste near/in the park if those using it do not responsibly pick up after their pets*

Inputs on location:

1) We should have a dog park located in Glencoe; reciprocity with another community does not fully meet the need. One reason is that it is important for residents to be able to walk over to the park or have a very short drive, so it is convenient to use without requiring large blocks of time. Also, having the park in the village fosters community interaction. Neighbors can see or meet other neighbors in the community at or on their way to the dog park.

2) It would be nice if we could find a parcel that is fairly central so more residents would be walking distance - behind the Takiff Center, or perhaps along the railroad tracks near Shelton Park and the Community Garden.

3) It could be helpful to select a property that already has parking available, for instance, behind the Takiff Center or Lakefront Park or Shelton Park.

4) It would be great to have space to play with dogs at the beach, if there is some unoccupied space at the water that could be used for this purpose.

5) If #4 above is not feasible, there could be an opportunity to take advantage of the Glencoe beach and other specific locations in the off season, by providing a temporary fenced in area at the beach for dogs to run off leash in Spring, Winter and Fall. Or perhaps, in the Winter at the Glencoe Golf Course (which does already have ample parking available.)

6) If we are only able to secure a small parcel of land for a dog park in Glencoe, it would be advantageous, in addition to the Glencoe site, to negotiate an agreement with neighboring municipalities for the use of their existing dog parks. Specifically, the beach front dog exercise areas in Winnetka and Highland Park. Both of

these are good sized properties, are relatively close in proximity and offer access to the water for play, scenery and a place for dogs to cool off. Currently, non-residents are allowed to gain access to the Highland Park dog park if they purchase a HP parking sticker and may also require registration for park use. This is a costly proposition, so a negotiated rate would be useful. I don't believe Winnetka allows non-residents to use their beach front dog park at all. Perhaps, some agreement could be forged to allow Glencoe residents to obtain access to the park with a registration fee.

7) Access to a dog park could be controlled by card entry that is obtained by registration with the park district at the beginning of the year or seasonally. A small registration fee could be assessed to cover administration fees and maintenance of the site.

Thank you for considering my inputs. It's very nice to see some forward momentum on this initiative and it would be great to see a Glencoe dog park come to fruition!

Dear Park District Board of Commissioners, I am unable to attend the public meeting on February 12, but have attached a letter with some observations, concerns and suggestions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. (letter below)

February 10, 2019

Dear Glencoe Park District Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the potential Glencoe Dog Park Project. I recognize that there are a number of residents who would like to have a dog park in the Village. I have some observations, concerns and suggestions regarding any potential location.

Thanks to the vision of Park District Boards from the early part of the last century, Glencoe has a great park system with easy, walkable access for every resident. If you have not already done so, I would suggest establishing objective site selection criteria for a dog park. A good example is included in the informative publication "Creating Dog Parks-Without Rancor" by the Trust for Public Land (attached). The article details site selection criteria that informed the development of successful dog parks in other cities. The criteria suggest that park boards "(1) avoid interference with other established uses or department-sponsored activities; (2) avoid locations directly abutting residences; (3) assure availability of close-by parking; (4) avoid locations near children's play areas; (4) choose spots where there are minimal impacts on the visual character of a park; (5) site so as to avoid spillover into non-dog areas; and (6) avoid sensitive environmental habitats. Seattle also learned something else. "Try to find property with no history," says Dewey Potter, spokeswoman for the park department. "It's a lot easier than persuading people to change a field's use into something different." Regarding minimum size, The American Kennel Club recommends a minimum size of 1 acre, while other sources recommend between ½ and 1 acre.

Criteria #4 above makes clear that locating dog parks near children's play areas creates an inherent risk of injury. Additionally, planners have found it effective to site dog parks in areas away from residential areas to abate the impact of noise. The sound of a barking dog is annoying to most people, and is why Glencoe has an ordinance that addresses the issue "Animal care and control is the responsibility of the owner. An owner of any animal shall be in violation of this section in the event such animal shall: Make excess noises, including barking, so as to disturb the peace and quiet." Neighboring communities have located their dog parks adjacent to a constant source of ambient sound – i.e. the lake, or a freeway, and away from housing.

Dog parks in neighboring north shore communities are all located in areas that are quite remote from existing residences. The Evanston/Skokie "Pooch Park" 3220 Oakton, Skokie is adjacent to the Northshore Drainage Channel and an industrial zone; The Wilmette Gilson Park Dog Beach is along the lake at the south end of Gilson Park. The Winnetka Centennial Dog Beach at 225 Sheridan Road is also along the lake. Highland Park operates three dog parks: Debbie Gottlieb Beitler Dog Park at Larry Fink Memorial Park, 701 Deer Creek Parkway; Moraine Beach 2501 Sheridan Road, and Highland Park Golf Learning Center, 2205 Skokie Valley Highway; adjacent to HWY 41 and a golf course. Given the close proximity of Glencoe's established residential neighborhoods to every park, I am quite concerned about the noise impact that a new dog park would introduce. A loudly barking dog is about 90-100 decibels. Most people have experienced this level of noise; it is similar to the amount of noise from a house construction site, a motorcycle from 25' away or jet taking off from 1000' away (see the attached noise level graphics for additional information, including risks). Sound dissipates over distance; however, a loudly barking dog can be audible from about a block away (500') depending on the

ambient sound/noise in the area. With probable open hours from dawn to dusk, a dog park has the strong potential to be very annoying and disruptive to neighbors. While probably not continuous, barking could occur nearly any time throughout every day. This would be an unwelcome change of the environment for neighbors, and quite likely negatively affect property values.

Every existing Glencoe Park is adjacent to a residential neighborhood, and in many cases, children's play areas. Because of noise and safety issues, at this time I cannot support a dog park in any existing Glencoe Park District park or open space.

However, there could be other options to resolve the request, such as partnering with one of the neighboring communities for access to their facilities, similar to the pool and the paddle tennis arrangements.

Attachment: Creating Dog Parks- Without Rancor; The Trust for Public Land

•

I am a resident of Glencoe. I wholeheartedly support the proposal to add a dog park in Glencoe. Ideally, this would include a dog beach.

•

We support the dog but are unable to attend the meeting. Please note that it conflicts with a New Trier freshman placement meeting. Some comments: attendees should be reminded that they already do not clean up after their pets when walking in their own neighborhood so there should be some form of strict enforcement for rule breakers. There also needs to be two sections - one for more active dogs and one for dogs still learning to socialize. The latter could be used independently by pet owners on a 15 minute personal use basis. It avoids the aggressive dogs for taking over a park.

I understand the local dog shelters (e.g., Orphans of the Storm) have expressed interest in using the dog park to exercise foster dogs. (We spoke to one of the workers who lived above Food Stuff in Glencoe). Good luck. I can't go to the meeting tonight, but I support a dog park.

•

I think it should have parking available in the area (I have a small dog who wouldn't walk a great distance to play in a park and then walk home).

*I would pay a member fee to belong to the park, if needed. (Register to be able to use the park).
Thank you*

•

*Good Morning, Please note: A DOG PARK WOULD BE AMAZING! (note sent in size 27font)
Kindest Regards, 32 Year Resident*

•

I can't make the meeting. But we would love to see your dog park come to Glencoe

•

I cannot make the meeting tomorrow but wanted to throw in support FOR a dog park. Would be a great addition to Glencoe. Would be great if dog park could be ONLY for Glencoe residents

- [REDACTED]:

Dear Glencoe Park District,

We are writing because we are in full support of building a dog park, but unfortunately, we cannot attend the meeting tonight. There are so many Glencoe residents with dogs and the community is in great need of an “off leash” setting of our pups and their “dog parents.” Glencoe is an amazing community, but it’s a shame that its residents have to drive to other communities to let their dogs run and play freely. The village should definitely put its attention and reasonably appropriate resources into building a dog park that would add to Glencoe’s many points of interest. It would be great to include some stationary exercise equipment within the area, which many dog parks have these days. That way, pet family members of all ages, could work on their own health as their dogs play. As you probably know, people who are out walking their dogs know so many of the folks in their neighborhood and beyond. I know, in walking my dog around town, I have gotten to know so many Glencoe residents that I would never have met before. A dog park would be a great “community builder” for residents, and visitors, of all ages. It would be a multigenerational resource that everyone could use. Likewise, it would be a wonderful resource for those with limited mobility or special needs. A dog park in Glencoe would be a wonderful addition to our “gem” of a village fostering healthy outdoor, unplugged activities uniting people, our beloved animals, and the beauty of nature!

- [REDACTED]:

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the meeting tonight for the dog park, but I am very much in favor of one. I think it would be a great asset to the community, since Glencoe is such a dog friendly town.

- [REDACTED]:

I am not sure I can make it this evening but would 100 percent support building a dog park in Glencoe. I think this would be a great asset to the community. Thank you!

- [REDACTED]:

Dear Ms. Sheppard:

I was out of town during the February 12, 2019 community meeting regarding the potential implementation of a dog park in Glencoe. I hope that it is not too late for my voice to be heard.

First of all—I commend you on your vision regarding Glencoe’s parks. I see the improvements in Glencoe’s playgrounds and wish that they were that nice when my now college aged/high school aged kids needed them. The programming is inclusive and it is apparent to me that you and your staff are doing your best to meet the myriad needs of the community. Though I view your work more from the balcony than the first row, it is apparent to me that you and your staff are doing a wonderful job.

I understand why a segment of the community would want a dog park. It appears that the love people have for their pets is only marginally less than what they have for their own children. I understand the social component. I understand that the Glencoe Park District’s mission is to reach the varying needs of all of its residents.

But I hate the idea. I really, really hate the idea. The reason is simple. There is no isolated piece of property in our community in which the sound of yapping dogs would not interfere with some other resident’s enjoyment of their private property. I say this without a shred of self-interest because my house on Hazel Avenue is nowhere near any vacant piece of land that a dog park could be located. But others would not be so lucky. This dog park idea was floated out several years ago near Phil Thomas Park. The people living near the park were up in arms and for good reason.

As a whole, dog owners do not understand that those without pets do not necessarily love their dogs as much as they do. In my opinion, dogs should be viewed in the same way that the community views somebody who wants to smoke cigarettes. You want to smoke? Go ahead in the privacy of your own home. You want a park where other smokers can gather? Sorry, that’s not our job. Can you imagine the uproar that adjoining neighbors would have if they abutted a “public smoking park”? That’s the way that I view a non dog owner having to put up with their property being located near a dog park. Owning a dog is not a right and if you wish to enjoy the company of your pet—go ahead—you have your own property to do so.

• [REDACTED]:
I am sorry I was unable to attend tonight's meeting. I am thrilled that a dog park is being investigated for Glencoe. When the dog park in Northbrook opened I was hoping that we would be able to use this park because we have reciprocity with other Northbrook Park District facilities, but is sad to see that it still is only for Northbrook residents. I would love to see a dog park located in Glencoe. We have gone to other dog parks and a few thoughts for what we would like to see in Glencoe:

- *Fenced in with double gate area, not off a busy road*
- *Parking available*
- *Sun covering with benches for people to sit*
- *Water fountain for people and dogs*
- *Large open area for dogs to run (not a lot of trees or bushes)*
- *Tire hoops or ramps for dogs to jump and play on*

The dog park in Deerfield if nice because it is set back off of a side street and is smaller so it is easy to keep track of your dog. I also really like that there is a park next door for kids to highly discourage kids from going into the dog park. I have seen some bad situations with kids at dog parks and parents not keeping a watchful eye.

Thanks for reading!

• [REDACTED]:
Hi, I think the dog park should be on the east side of the train tracks near Dennis, Lincoln Ave. I understand residents do not want barking dogs early or late. Limit hours to 8:00-6:00?

• [REDACTED]:
Hello,
*I am **not** in favor of a dog park for Glencoe. Here is why.*
*I am a Glencoe resident and I also work as a **full-time dog walker** along the North Shore since 2006. In the past 3 years I have studied and worked as a dog trainer. I walk dogs individually as well as in packs. I spend over 10 hours a day with dogs...of all breeds and temperments. To put it simply...dogs are my life. I understand them and how they interact and bond. I know how to read them and interpret the good and the potential bad. It has taken me many years to become very keen to what dog behavior is.*
The biggest culprit to me while doing my job is off leash dogs!! While walking my pack or individual client dogs it is a huge threat to have an off leash dog approach us...often very much on the attack. While I understand that a dog park would have slightly different circumstances it does not warrant safe outcomes.
1. Off leash dogs mean there is total and complete responsibility on the owner to be in control. In my many years of observing owners and dogs it is rare to see an owner who has control to the point that their dog actually LISTENS to them. This is always potential for disaster. It's always the case where the dog is running towards us as the owner calls its name and it completely ignores the owner. The next step is usually owner states that their dog is "friendly" as their dog attempts to bite us. No joke.
2. Dogs do NOT need to play with other dogs. This is a fact. It is the misunderstanding of the owner to think that dogs "must" play or that running freely and wildy is excercise. It may be physically exerting energy but for most dogs it builds anxiety. This can be very misunderstood by the owner as "fun" when in actuality it is not fun for the dog at all. Often owners don't recognize the building anxiety in dogs running freely and when fights break out they are shocked. Fights lead to bites. And then you have a multitude of problems.
3. Puppies absolutely should never be brought to a dog park. And yet I bet the majority of puppy owners think a dog park would be the best form of exercise for their young dog. No! Puppies have few boundaries. Yes, they are taught by the pack how to "get along" BUT not in the environment of a dog park. One aggressive occurrence between a puppy and strange dog "could" alter that puppy's future ability to interact with other canines forever. I cannot tell you how many times I have heard "my dog was attacked as a puppy and never the same again...how can I train him to NOT fear other dogs?" People generally are unaware of this until they have

a disaster on their hands and a problem young dog.

To summarize I'd like to be very clear in stating that unsupervised dog parks are the invitation for huge potential problems for ALL involved. For many reasons. Just because people "love" their dogs, and we all do, does NOT mean that they are dog behavior experts. Dog parks are NOT fun for most dogs believe it or not. And most humans have ZERO ability to realize this and ward off bad outcomes. The Village can avoid this possible huge nightmare and vote against a dog park for Glencoe.

Finally, yes, dogs CAN play and have fun together but ONLY when supervised by a dog professional who knows exactly what to allow, when to allow it and how to avoid dog fights. I don't think the dog park would be staffed by such a person. Without it though the idea of a dog park is just extremely unadvisable. Please vote no.

• [REDACTED]:
Thanks very much, Lisa. I've lived in Glencoe for over 50 years, so I know the community well. I know that you have other priorities that are also important, and can only accomplish so much with limited financial and other resources, but I really do think that the addition of a dog park is compelling. My wife and/or I walk our dog through Glencoe about 5 miles every day. We encounter lots of fellow residents who are out with their dogs. Among the Glencoe families with dogs (I don't know the percentage, but you could easily check to see how many dogs are registered with the Village), the desire for a dog park is extremely high.

Our Park District is amazing; the breadth and quality of facilities and services for a community of our small size is very rare, as you well know. However, the omission of a dog park is glaring.

In my view, you've got plenty of land to choose from. I know that there will likely be vocal objections from several residents who will complain about expected noise and barking. As someone who spends quite a bit of time in the Highland Park dog park, I can tell you that there is a surprisingly small amount of barking. That always amazes me. One potentially good location would be just east of the train tracks, a block or two north of the train station. There is one block in particular which is clear of trees and about the right size for a dog park (which should probably be two contiguous parks, one each for small and large dogs, as in Highland Park).

Plenty of parking right across the street (the northern end of Old Green Bay has no train commuter parkers). Any complaint from a neighbor in that neighborhood about noise would be disingenuous: they live right across the street from an active train track! Did they not know that 15+ trains go by there every day when they bought their houses?

I'm happy to provide more input, if desired. Sorry that I will miss the community forum on Feb 12th.

• [REDACTED]:
Thank you for serving on the task force. I have been a resident of Glencoe for over 30 years living at [REDACTED] next to Shelton Park. I am a dog lover and have owned dogs for 22 of the 30 years. I am not opposed to the concept of a dog park but I am very concerned about the viability of a dog park in Glencoe given that all of our parks are relatively small and adjacent to homes. Any dog park located in existing parks is likely to increase the activity of the park beyond what has been there before disturbing existing patterns of park use and creating parking issues in surrounding area. The towns surrounding Glencoe seem to be able to successfully locate dog parks with little if any exposure to surrounding residents.

These towns, however, have property much larger and more isolated from homes than would be the case in Glencoe. In my research, the towns which were thoughtful about the location of the park realized it was important to take great strides to minimize any conflicts with residents. They understood that the noise and activity levels should be no more than other park uses and that it was important to use screening and visual buffers to minimize any impact on residences as to noise and visual attenuation.

Further, as one report concluded, it is imperative that any proposed location should have strong support from surrounding neighbors and in general be supported by the community. Buy-in from immediate neighbors is crucial to the success of any proposed location. Finally, in regard to buy in from existing neighbors, I would make sure every effort is taken to make sure someone on the task force has talked to that neighbor well before any decision is made as to the location of the park. It should not be sufficient that signs are posted and letters are delivered to that neighbor. My experience is that this approach to notification is likely to miss important constituents and given the significant impact on neighbors every effort should be made to include them in the process. Thank you for taking into account my comments. I am available any time you wish to discuss.

- █:
- *Our Home: As mentioned, the site directly abuts our house, where we live with our two young daughters (4 years and 11 months old). A dog park literally right next to us would create a noise nuisance from the constant barking as well as a safety hazard. This is in addition to the very harmful visual impact it would obviously have on our property and others nearby. I suspect each of you would similarly oppose such a project if it were being contemplated directly next to where you live.*
 - *Congestion: As you likely know, we have significant car, foot and bike traffic at this location as is. This is especially true during the weekdays when the Metra commute is at its peak and on weekend mornings when joggers and bikers frequent the area. Adding a dog park will add to this congestion and create safety hazards for those - like our family and others in the neighborhood - who are impacted by it.*
 - *Children's Park: The safety hazards noted above are particularly acute given there is a children's park directly across from Sunken Park. As I'm sure you know, this park is intended for children of a very young age. Putting a dog park right next to it is a recipe for disaster from both a safety and liability standpoint. This alone should have already eliminated the site from consideration.*
 - *Visual Impact to Park Itself: The park land running along inner Old Green Bay road is absolutely stunning. Indeed, it was one of the reasons we moved where we did from the City last year. Placement of a dog park squarely in the middle this stretch of one of Glencoe's treasures simply doesn't make any sense. In fact, I understand that the Park District is considering significant aesthetic improvements to this linear park area and has already invested funds to this end. Construction of a dog park in this same location would be directly at odds with this effort.*
 - *The soil: If you have ever been to Sunken Park after a rainfall, you surely know that the area is a low spot that collects heaps of water. Even in dry times, the ground is soft and soggy due to the poor drainage. Use of this area for a dog park would turn it into a muddy, unsightly mess. I encourage you to walk the park following a rain if you haven't before. You will see what I mean.*

- █:
I know that you've received many responses about the dog park, but I wanted to add mine as I believe I'm the only resident █ whose home is directly across from the sunken park. My living room window faces that park — the same living room window where my three rescue dogs spend much of the day barking at the occasional passersby. Not only would a dog park negatively impact the value of my home (which currently is in a relatively quiet spot), but it would possibly necessitate a move on my part. My dogs would never experience a day of calm if their "peers" were outside their window all day, every day and every night. Thank you for considering my feedback.

- █:
I am also reiterating what everyone in the neighborhood stated. I am also a dog owner for years, and there are many times I have felt like an outlaw trying to find a place to let my dog run and socialize. I do understand a dog park in Glencoe would be a great idea. I have concerns over the sunken park location. The ground is spongy, moist most times of the year. Obviously this spring has been more rainy than most, but climate scientist are saying this will be our new normal for the Midwest. It would literally turn into a mud pit. If you have ever driven by after your crew has cut the grass, there are ALWAYS deep ruts into the ground. I also know the park district has spent a great deal of time and money on the plan to reinvent that linear park space. As one of my neighbors suggested, this would literally change what you were trying to accomplish in that plan. There are still plans for a children's park across the street. Also included in your plan. The Green Bay Trail connection will always exist, so there will always be a large group of people biking or walking through. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

- █:
I live "around the corner" from the sunken park at █ and my family and I fully support the comments of the █ family and the █ family. In addition to their accurate

observations, one of your stated criteria is "Avoid locations that have the entrance to the dog park near a children's play area". However, there is a children's playground ACTUALLY IMMEDIATELY ACROSS LINCOLN DR which is the northern border of the sunken area. The children's playground (where my grandson plays along with many other children) could not be any closer unless it was IN the sunken area. Thank you for listening.

- [REDACTED]:
My family & I live at [REDACTED] which is [REDACTED] east of the park off of Old Green Bay Road. We have owned a dog for 12 years and every day I take my dog for walks in the morning and the evening down Dennis Lane towards Old Green Bay road for her to do her business. I am very familiar with the "Sunken Park" as I walk buy it every day. And while I love my dog and would love to have her have a place where she could play with other dogs, the Sunken Park is absolutely NOT the right place for this to take place. All you need to do is walk down into that park every day for a week and see how wet it is and imagine what a muddy mess it will turn into with a bunch of dogs running around in it. It would be a disaster! In fact, someone decided to drive their car out onto the field about 6 weeks ago and the tracks are still visible. You should ask the lawn crew about how easy it is to cut the grass given the constant moisture in the ground. Please remove this site from consideration as it is just not a practical location.

- [REDACTED]:
I'm including my email correspondence with Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director of the Glencoe Park District. As you'll see from the original email below, the Park District is considering building a dog park. One of the potential locations is the land along Inner Green Bay Rd between Dennis and Lincoln. They refer to this site as the "Sunken Park." I voiced my concern that this location was being considered since it does not adhere to 4 of the 6 criteria they established. Also, this area is wet most of the year and is not suitable for this purpose. If you have questions or a point of view about a dog park or this location please write to Lisa Sheppard.

Good Morning Harvey, None of the sites meet all the criteria perfectly but the Board advanced this site because it meets space and parking requirements, would not interact directly with entrance to children's play area, is not environmentally sensitive, is not activated for any current use (the walking path in that area runs parallel to the sidewalk. There is an aligning property, but there is room for a further landscape barrier besides a set-back. Sincerely, Lisa

Lisa, I appreciate your taking the time to respond to my email. However, you did not provide an explanation as to why the Park District chose the "sunken park" as one of the options since it directly contradicted 4 of the 6 criteria that was developed. Thank you. Harvey

Hello Mr. Mysel, No, a decision has not been made about the dog park. The Glencoe Park District Board is seeking volunteers to serve on a three month task force to explore the feasibility of dog park sites throughout Glencoe. The group will serve in an advisory capacity to provide input to the Park Board on a potential location, size and features of a dog park. The committee will be composed of volunteers both for and against a dog park in Glencoe. Applicants must be willing to listen to both sides of the issue with an open mind and possess critical thinking skills. At the end of the three month period, the task force will present their findings to the Park Board at a public meeting. The Glencoe Park District Special Projects and Facility Committee met on May 7, 2019 to discuss the feasibility of a Dog Park in Glencoe. The committee reviewed the process so far and determined that there was community support for a dog park based comments at the community meeting and e-mail correspondence. They also determined that a dog park falls into the Mission and Vision of the Glencoe Park District. The Committee then began discussion on a possible site for a dog park. The committee were given several articles by National Park and Recreation Association and the Trust for Public land. Based on information gathered the Board eliminated sites that 1. Have established uses or district sponsored activities and 2. Have sensitive

environmental habitats. The Committee then set other site selection criteria that include:

- Dog Park should not directly abut a residence but should have some sort of buffer that could be physical or landscaping.*
- Assure that there is availability of close parking*
- Avoid locations that have the entrance to the dog park near a children's play area*
- Choose spots where there are minimal impacts on the visual character of a park*
- Look at the activity of the park to avoid areas that are too congested*
- If there is an existing amenity on the property could we move it to another parcel should this be the best location for a dog park*

After viewing all possible sites owned by the Glencoe Park District the Committee discussed and narrowed down the choices to six possible sites to explore further. Those sites are:

- **Park 7n and 8n**, located at the intersection of Old Green Bay Road and Maple Hill Road*
- **Park 3n** "Sunken Park", located east of Old Green Bay Road and north of Dennis Lane*
- **Watts Park**, not including the athletic fields, located at 461 Jackson Avenue*
- **Shelton Park**, located at 251 Harbor Avenue; focus on southwest portion of the park*
- **Park 21s2 and 22s**, adjacent to the Linden House; located at Linden and Jackson avenues*
- **Park 10s**, located at Green Bay Road and South Avenue*

The Board then directed staff to form a community task force made of residents that are for and against a dog park to further evaluate the sites. This task force will begin in June with goal of lasting now more than three months. The Task Force should be limited to ten members to facilitate discussion. The Board will accept applications until May 31 and will then choose the members. Once the Task Force meets and begins discussion, I will share your concerns when they are evaluating that site. Sincerely, Lisa

Lisa, I have some questions and I wanted to make a few comments regarding the information about the Dog Park Task Force. My first question, has a decision been made to have a dog park? In the information you state: "The group will serve in an advisory capacity to provide input to the Park Board on a potential location, size and features of a dog park." Do you want the task force to explore whether or not a dog park amenity is of interest to the community or has that decision already been made? If that decision has been made could you provide me with the minutes from a meeting where this was discussed? The information includes "site selection criteria" to which there are 6 items. It seems clear that the "sunken park" site does not adhere to 4 of the 6 "site selection criteria." i.e. the sunken park site:

- 1. Directly abuts the side yard of 2 private residences.*
- 2. There is a playground directly across the street.*
- 3. A dog park here would significantly "...impact on the visual character of the park." The Park District is planning to improve the linear park along Inner Green Bay Rd. The sunken park is right in the middle of the planned linear park improvement. Have you discussed the dog park with the architect that you hired for the Old Green Bay Trail Linear Park Design?*
- 4. This area is already quite congested during weekday rush hours, especially during the evening when Metra commuters return for their autos. As was noted during the presentations for the linear park improvement this area is also heavily used during the weekends with walkers, joggers and bike riders.*

There is another factor, the sunken park is wet for most of the year and will turn into a muddy mess if used by dogs. With the increased number of dog parks appearing in other communities, exploring this for Glencoe may be a good idea. With the selection criteria that you developed, including the sunken park as a potential location does not seem to make sense. I would appreciate it if you could substantiate why the sunken park was included as a potential dog park site. It would be my pleasure to discuss the above with you, a Park District employee or board member. Regards, Harvey

Total E-mails:	52
Yes:	40
No:	9
Only if funds and/or land is donated:	2

II. Site Selection Discussion

No Documents

Dog Park Task Force Meeting

October 2, 2019

IV. Review draft neighborhood letter and survey

Dog Park Task Force Meeting
October 2, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dog Park Task Force Members
FROM: Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Survey and Proposed Site for Dog Park at Shelton Park
DATE: 9/27/2019

Attached is a revised letter and survey that will go out to the neighbors of Shelton Park should the Task Force agree to do so.

The Dog Park Task Force members requested that I illustrate potential locations for a dog park in Shelton Park. If accepted by members, we would include these maps in the letter to the neighbors.

Attached you will find four maps. The maps represent two conceptual layouts of a dog park area; each is shown in a photo and a general map. Two concepts are as follows:

- .45 acre dog park
- .9 acre dog park

Below is the closest distance in feet of each private residence within sight of the dog park. Distance is to the property line, not the home.

ADDRESS	CLOSEST PROPERTY LINE .45 ACRE FT	CLOSEST PROPERTY LINE .9 ACRE FT
255 HARBOR	173	173
320 OLD GB	165	165
326 OLD GB	150	150
330 OLD GB	130	125
350 OLD GB	142	65
280 HARBOR	138	138
270 HARBOR	158	158
166 HARBOR	200	200
260 HARBOR	250	250



October 10, 2019

Dear Neighbor,

The Glencoe Park District (GPD) Board of Commissioners formed a volunteer task force to address resident requests for a dog park in Glencoe. A dog park was a top priority on Glencoe's 2014 Master Plan community survey and has been a consistent request since then. Nationally, dog parks are now one of the most desired park amenities.

The objective of the task force is to find a location on GPD property that meets basic criteria for this new amenity, such as adequate open space and nearby parking, and on land not currently activated for another recreational use. After evaluating 23 potential sites chosen from resident input at a public meeting, the location unanimously chosen by the task force to further explore is in the SW corner of Shelton Park as shown in the rendering. The attached is a basic rendering of the potential location and size. The design attributes would include quality fencing, drainage, landscaping, and a variety of different surface materials such as grass, artificial grass or crushed granite surface. This is the just the first step in a process that will require the board to determine funding.

The task force is interested in hearing from neighbors in the area around the potential dog park and has created this survey to better understand your opinions and any potential concerns. Please take some time to complete the survey and return it to the GPD in the stamped addressed enclosed envelope. The survey is also available online at Please use the **code.....** to complete the survey.

The task force will discuss the opinions shared in the survey, prior to making any recommendations to the Board of Park Commissioners. The Task Force will report their findings and their recommendations at a public meeting later this year. If you would like to be notified of the meeting, please include your email address on the survey.

Thank you for helping us by taking the time to share your thoughts. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at info@glencoe park district.com or (847) 835-3030.



PLEASE SHARE YOUR OPINION OF A POTENTIAL DOG PARK IN SHELTON PARK AT THE LOCATION SHOWN ON THE RENDERING ATTACHED TO THIS SURVEY.

Results of this survey and comments will be shared with the task force and at a public meeting but names will be withheld.

Please fill out a separate survey for every adult over 21 in your household or indicate below both names if views are shared by both 21 and over residents.

First Name(s): _____ Last Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Are you a neighbor of Shelton Park? Yes No

Have you ever been to a dog park before: Yes No

Do you think Glencoe could benefit from an area where dogs could safely play off leash? Yes No

What benefits would a dog park bring to Glencoe?

(Rate the strength of your opinion on each attribute: 1 – no benefit, 5 - high benefit and 3 – neutral/ambivalent)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| ____ socialization for dogs | ____ socialization for humans |
| ____ exercise and enrichment for dogs | ____ builds a sense of community |
| ____ gives dogs a safe space to exercise and roam freely | |
| ____ improves desirability to of Glencoe to potential buyers (newcomers) | |
| ____ other: _____ | |

Rate Your Level of concerns to a dog park in the location shown on the rendering attached to this survey.

(Rate the strength of your opinion on each attribute: 1 – no benefit, 5 - high benefit and 3 – neutral/ambivalent)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ____ dog conflicts | ____ noise |
| ____ parking and congestion | ____ trash |
| ____ odor | ____ hours of operations |
| ____ location (proximity to houses) | ____ dogs getting loose |
| ____ change of landscape/view | |
| ____ other? _____ | |

Would you support a dog park in the area shown on the rendering? Yes No

If No, let us know if anything could be done to make this area acceptable: _____

If you would like to be contacted about future Dog Park Task Force Meetings, please share your email address here (your e-mail address will not be shared): _____



Map created on September 27, 2019.
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.9 Dog Park



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