

Benefits to the City

Dog Park Defined

A dog park is a clearly defined location where dog owners can safely and legally exercise and socialize their dog's off-leash.

Safety

- Dog parks decrease the number of off-leash dogs in public spaces, making it easier for leash laws to be enforced elsewhere in town.
- Dog parks also reduce the likelihood that dogs will be let loose in park areas where they could interfere with other park users such as bicyclists, skateboarders, and rollerblading.
- Providing separate areas for dog exercise segregates dog owners from the other users and reduces the risk of collisions, etc.
- Pedestrian Safety: those without access to sidewalks would have a place to exercise their dog.
- All Residents that live in multi-unit dwellings or have mobility challenges will now have a designated space to exercise their dog safely.
- Years of experience at dog parks across the country indicate that dogs are less aggressive in open areas because they are on neutral territory and not constrained by their leashes.
- Dog socialization reduces anxiety toward new situations, creating calmer dog-neighborhoods. Less barking, a tired dog is a quiet dog.
- A dog park is an attractive amenity for prospective residents of St. Francis.
- Safety: additional presence of the dog park would deter loiterers and others who may use the nearby land for prohibited activities.

Health Issues/Concerns

City of St. Francis Public Works Department is committed to monitoring park usage along with park users to be sure that they are well maintained, safe, secure, and clean. Dog park experience in hundreds of parks across the United States indicates that users cooperate to keep their designated areas clean and maintained.

Dedicated dog parks improve public health by keeping dog waste confined to one area. Peer pressure encourages dog owners to pick up after their dogs and keep the park clean.

*Other features of the dog park might include (future): paved trail around the fence-line and natural play features such as boulders and/or agility equipment.