

ANIMAL AND DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

City Hall Room 208
Friday, March 6, 2020
8:00 am – 9:00 am

Minutes

| Attendees | |
|---|---|
| Committee Members: | |
| Bob Langis, Animal Control Officer | ✓ |
| Becky Longval, Nashua Humane Society Representative | ✓ |
| June Lemam, Community Member (Vice-Chair) | ✓ |
| Amber Logue, Community Member (Chair) | ✓ |
| Megan Villacis, Community Member | ✓ |
| Tom Lopez, Board of Aldermen | |
| Patricia Klee, Board of Aldermen Alternate Member* | |
| Staff: | |
| Nick Caggiano, Parks and Recreation Superintendent | ✓ |
| Deb Chisholm, Waterways Manager | ✓ |
| Julie Chizmas, Transportation & Long-Range Planner | ✓ |
| Cheryl Lindner, Chief of Staff | |
| Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director | |
| Other: | |
| Cecilia Ulibarri, Mayor's Liaison | ✓ |
| | |

*Per email sent on 2/24, Alderwoman Klee could not attend due to a scheduling conflict.

1. Adoption of the January 23, 2020 meeting minutes
 - Moved: Bob Langis
 - Seconded: Amber Logue
 - All in favor: Yes
2. Animal and Dog Park Committee Mission Statement (Amber Logue)

Amber shared an example of a good Mission Statement from the [Blair County Dog Park Association](#) (Altoona, PA) that we can wordsmith to fit our Committee:

The mission of the Blair County Dog Park Association is to encourage the establishment of dog parks in order to provide safe and secure environments where owners may exercise and train their dogs off leash, thus providing effective socialization opportunities for people and their dogs as well as enhancing positive interaction between dog owners and the community. The organization would promote responsible dog ownership in the community through educational and recreational activities, demonstration projects and training opportunities, thus encouraging current and potential dog owners to develop a more meaningful relationship with their canine companions and the community at large.

- Need to work in "animals"
- The dog park isn't a training center but we should note training and educational opportunities
 - Depending on location, could possibly reserve neighboring space (e.g., through Parks 'n Rec) for training/educational events

3. Dog Park Presentation (Amber Logue)

Amber's presentation is attached. Some key points from the presentation and discussion:

- many benefits of dog parks, including bringing people together in locations that might otherwise be vacant and prone to criminal activity.;
- Stanton Foundation has funded 35 parks in Mass
- 9,778 dog licenses in calendar year 2018 per City Clerk's office
- # of dogs at rabies clinic goes up every year – about 100 last year

4. Report out on "Dog at Large" calls (Bob Langis)

Bob shared information on the number of different animal calls his office receives in a month:

| Type | January | February | March | Year to Date |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Give Advice | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| Give Assistance | 0 | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| At Large* | 47 | 34 | 48 | 129 |
| Barking | 19 | 7 | 7 | 33 |
| Bites | 5 | 3 | 5 | 13 |
| Check Conditions | 13 | 12 | 11 | 36 |
| Cruelty | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Wildlife | 8 | 25 | 23 | 56 |
| Menace | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| Follow up | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total: | 98 | 90 | 106 | 294 |

**§ 93-5. Dogs running at large. It shall be unlawful for any dog to run at large. The term "at large" means off the premises of the owner or keeper, and not under leash or other physical restraint of the owner or a responsible person, or not within the confines of the fenced area of an off-leash dog park approved by the City of Nashua and animal control officer.*

- Wildlife calls typically increase in spring/summer then drop in November
- ACO does a lot of education and give a lot of assistance
- If a case goes to court and a violation found, there's a fine – can go up to \$500
- \$25 bond for unlicensed dogs at Humane Society + \$20 boarding fee if there overnight + a bond on all animals that need to be vaccinated

5. Potential Dog Park locations: continued discussion and next steps

- Lot 77-17
 - Address: 21 Pine St Ext
 - Area: 1.36 acres
 - Zoning: General Industrial/Mixed Use
 - Ownership: Currently owned by the City but trading land with Eversource (see Lot 77-2A)
- Lot 77-2A
 - Address: 3 Pine St Ext
 - Area: 0.57 acres
 - Zoning: General Industrial/Mixed Use
 - Ownership: Currently owned by Eversource but trading land with City and moving equipment to Lot 77-17
- 77-5: (see attached map)
 - Address: L Pine St
 - Area: 4.75 acres
 - Zoning: General Industrial/Mixed Use (East side) & B Urban Residence (West side)
 - Ownership: Nashua Millyard Associates Inc.
 - Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director, has offered to help facilitate a conversation with NMA
 - Floods occasionally –not well suited for residential/commercial development
- Lots 25-1 & 23-1 (see attached map)
 - Address: 25 Crown St & L Gillis St
 - Combined Area: 8.17 acres; excluding parking lot: 3.10 acres
 - Zoning: General Industrial (North end) & B Urban Residence (South end)
 - Ownership: City of Nashua
 - Potential to be developed as train station in future but could potential use as dog park in the interim
 - Ample parking and space outside of fenced area for clinics/demonstrations
- E-1487
 - Address: 10 Whipple St (Mines Falls Park)
 - Acres: 14.44, but just looking at section near fields off Whipple Street
 - Zoning: B Urban Residence
 - Ownership: City of Nashua
 - Would need clearing, which would be very expensive
 - Unlikely to get a favorable recommendation from the Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee
 - Waste would be a big issue (currently have pet waste bag dispensers and trash cans at entrances to the Park)

6. Other topics:

- Spring Melt
 - Locations with reported pet waste issues
 - Rail Trail – worst location in Downtown area
 - Tends to be where lost dogs end up
 - Salem St Tot Lot

- Getting new playground equipment
 - Tolls St Park
 - Grow Nashua building community gardens
 - Shattuck St Tot Lot
 - Mine Falls Park
 - Whipple Street
 - Behind Boys & Girls Club
- Community Clean Up Day scheduled for 4/18
 - Rivier and Bishop Guertin signed up
- Deb sent info to Clerks office to include with dog license notices
- Animal and Dog Park Advisory Committee Facebook Page
 - Should have one City & one Non-City admin
 - Amber = Non-City; Julie = City
- Upcoming Events
 - June 6th = DPW's Summer Fun Day
 - Set up a table in partnership with Humane Society
 - July 18th = Fairy Tale Festival
 - 3,000 – 4,000 people

Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 am

Next Meeting: ~~Friday, April 3rd at 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM~~ TBD due to COVID-19 Stay at Home Order

Minutes by: Julie Chizmas



Downtown Dog Park

& Animal Advisory Committee

Just the facts...

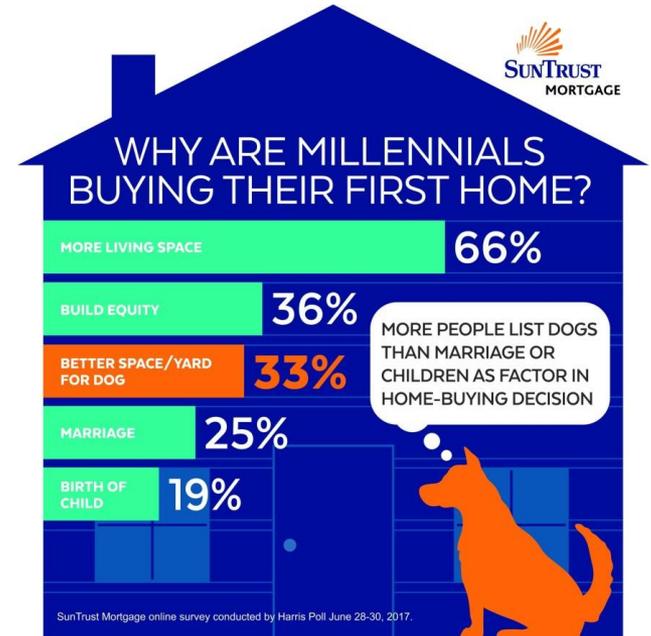
- 91% of Americans believe dog parks benefit their community
- Dog ownership has increased 29% in the last decade
- 52% of NH residents have pets, 30% are dogs
- 33% of millennials cite dogs as reason for buying 1st home
- The fastest growing segment of city parks are dog parks
- Zero public dog parks in Nashua

91% of Americans believe dog parks provide benefits to their communities.

MILLENNIALS 94%

GEN XERS 92%

BABY BOOMERS 89%



What is a dog park?

A dog park is a public park, typically fenced where people and their dogs can play together. These off-leash play areas provide the chance to socialize with their owners and other canines.

Top 3 Community Dog Park Benefits:

60% Gives dogs a safe space to exercise and roam around freely

48% Allows dogs to socialize with other dogs

36% Allows owners a chance to be physically active with their pet



How does it benefit our community?

Exercise and socialization lead to better behaved pets.

Reduces nuisance behaviors and the number of dogs that end up at Human Society.

Studies have shown that one of the main reasons dogs display behavioral problems is because they are not getting enough exercise.

Encourage people to exercise and stimulate social interaction with other people

Accommodate senior citizens and the disabled, who cannot always walk their dogs on leash

Builds a community of people committed to parks, community involvement and the environment

Encourage compliance with local leash laws

Discourages delinquent and criminal activity in parks



Location, Location, Location

A committee should be formed to take on the careful task of locating and building a dog park.

Preliminary proposal is the open field at Mine Falls entrance behind Nimco. (A few stakeholders have already said they support the idea personally. Bagshaw's & Rob Caro) This space also follows the green space extension plan from the Millyard District study.

Important selection factors include

- A place people naturally already take their dogs
- Parking
- Water main access for drinking station & park maintenance / cleaning
- Topography
- Away from residential areas to reduce noise complaints

40%

Increase in number of dog parks since 2009 across the US.

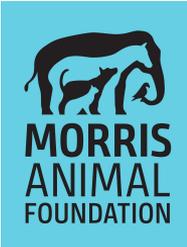
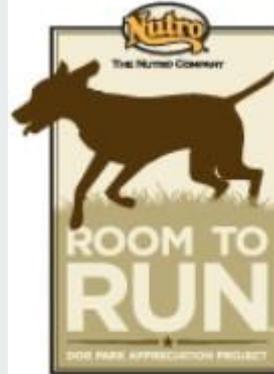


Funding & Resources

Grants, fundraisers, and donations. Approx. cost is 165K according to The Stanton Foundation.

The Stanton Foundation of MA, who has funded 35+ parks in MA has said they will be a resource to us, and can direct us to grants others have used.

STANTON
FOUNDATION



“

“Dog parks are among the fastest growing amenities park and recreation agencies offer. Whether it’s allowing dogs a chance to play off-leash or get exercise with their owners, having a safe space to roam freely benefits the surrounding communities.”



- Barbara Tulipane, CEO & President National Park & Rec. Association

**Building a dog park
downtown will greatly
benefit our citizens,
canine & human.**

Thanks!

Amber Logue
20 Lock Street
Nashua, NH 03064

logue.amber@gmail.com
702.250.4119





0.57 acres
Lot 77-2A

4.75 acres

Lot 77-5

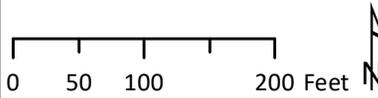
SPINE RD

PINE ST EXT

PINE ST

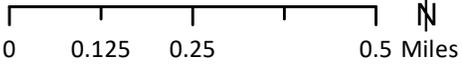
Potential Dog Park Sites

-  Property Boundary
-  100-Foot Buffer
-  Residential Property

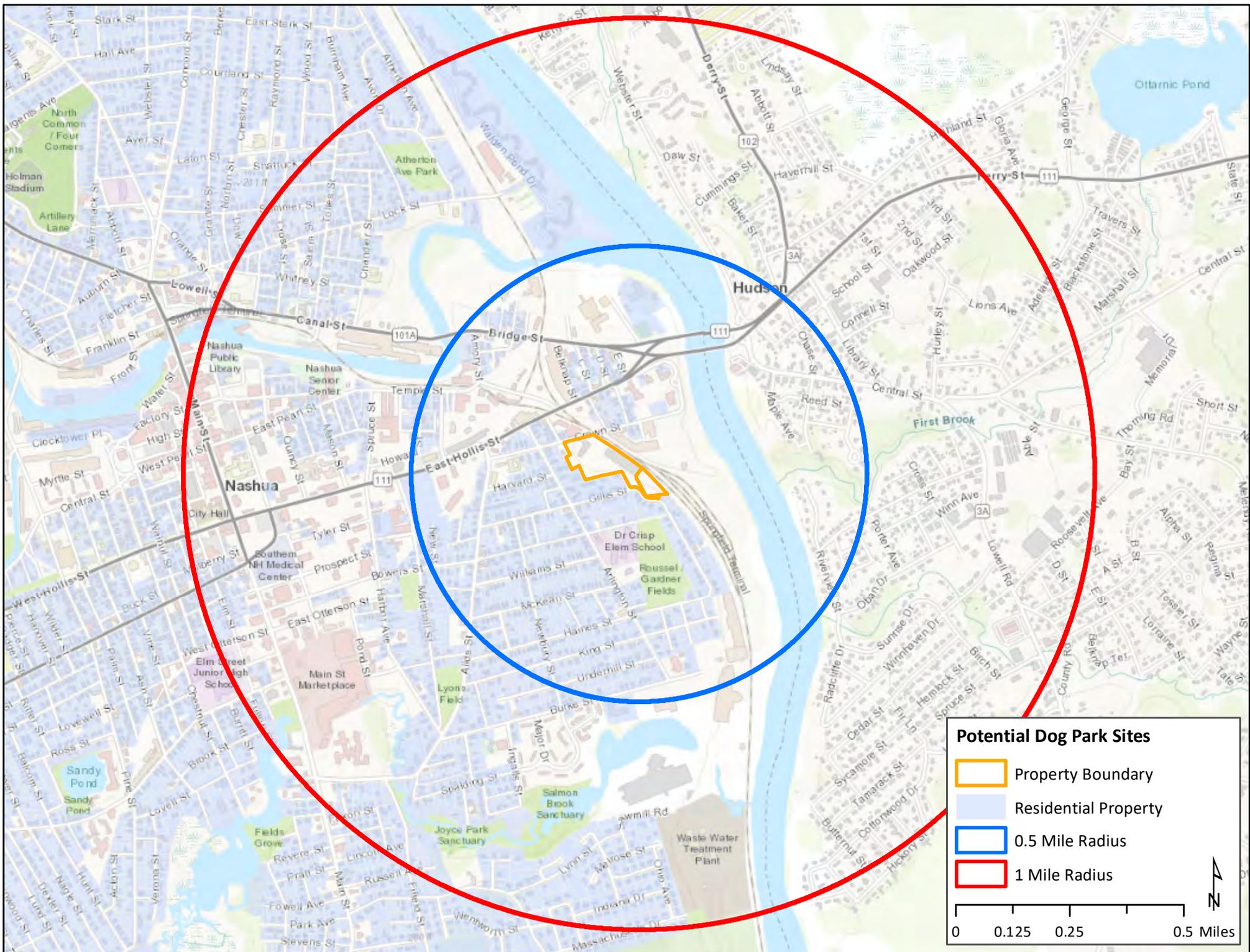


Potential Dog Park Sites

-  Property Boundary
-  Residential Property
-  0.5 Mile Radius
-  1 Mile Radius







Potential Dog Park Sites

- Property Boundary
- Residential Property
- 0.5 Mile Radius
- 1 Mile Radius

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles