



Welcome to the **Fairfax County Park Authority** Dog Park Study Draft Report Public Meeting

Tuesday March 23, 2021

7:00 PM





Meeting Agenda

Park Authority Overview & Introductions

Judy Pedersen, FCPA Public Information Officer

Dog Park Study Draft Report Presentation

Adam Wynn, PLA, FCPA Project Manager

Melissa Cameron, AICP, FCPA Park Planner

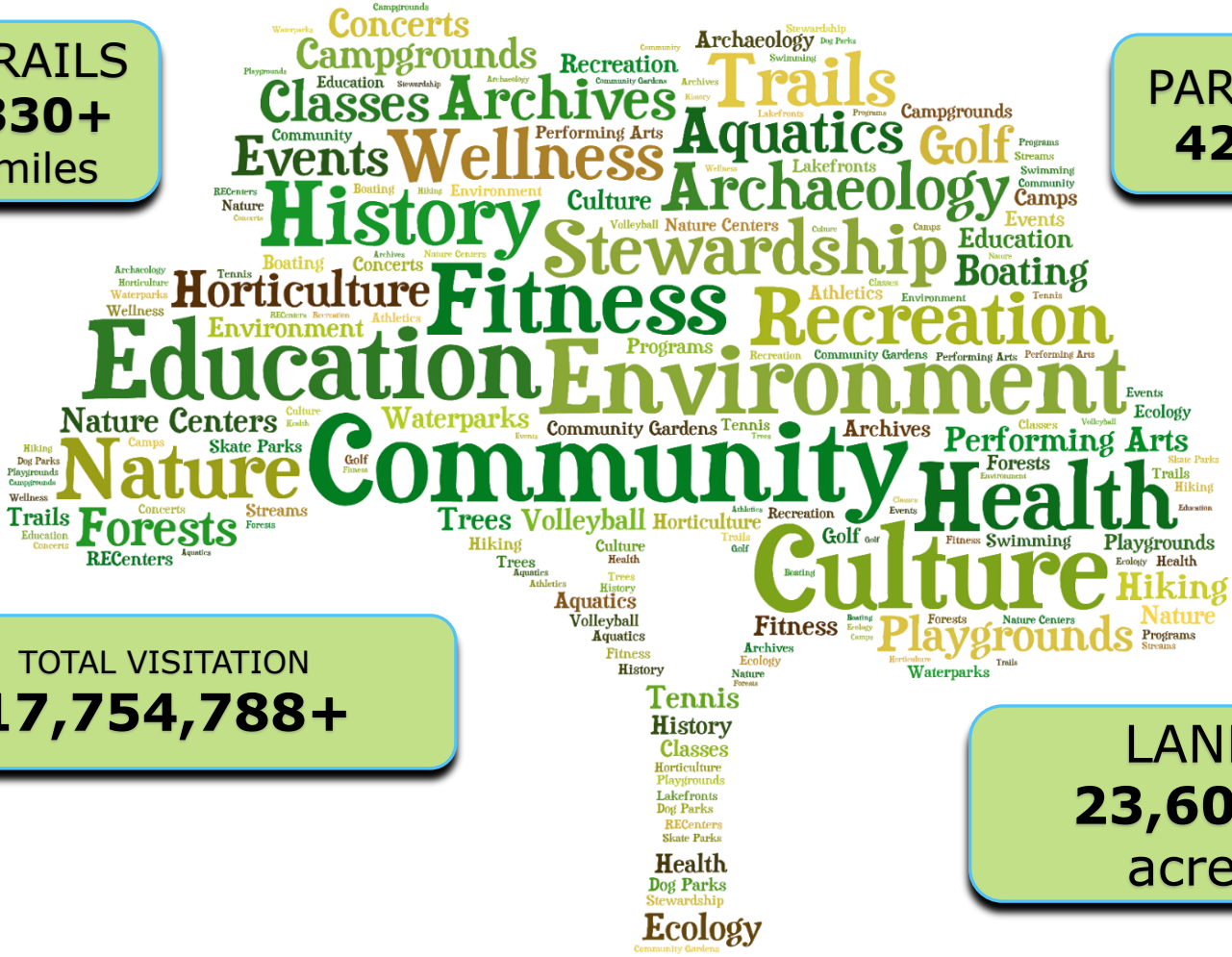
Facilitated Public Comment Session – Q&A



Fairfax County Park Authority at a Glance

TRAILS
330+
miles

PARKS
429



TOTAL VISITATION
17,754,788+

LAND
23,600+
acres

Park Authority Mission

To enrich quality of life for all members of the community through an enduring park system that provides a healthy environment, preserves natural and cultural heritage, offers inspiring recreational experiences, and promotes healthy lifestyles.

Primary Guiding Principles



Inspire a Passion for Parks



Be Great Stewards



Strengthen and Foster Partnerships



Meet Changing Recreation Needs



Promote Healthy Lifestyles



Be Equitable and Inclusive



Advance Park System Excellence



American Alliance of Museums

Park Authority Board

The Park Authority Board is:

- The Park Authority's governing body
- Comprised of 12 members appointed by Board of Supervisors; one representative of the 9 Supervisory Districts and 3 At-large Members



Meeting Logistics



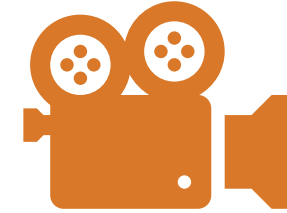
Type your questions in the box on the meeting page.

Staff will answer questions at the end of the presentation.



Call in by phone at the end of the presentation to ask questions or provide comment.

A phone number will be provided at the end of the presentation.



This presentation will be recorded and made available after tonight's meeting.

FCPA Draft Dog Park Study Report

Presented by

Adam Wynn, PLA, FCPA Project Manager

Melissa Cameron, AICP, FCPA Park Planner



Study Presentation Agenda



DOG PARK STUDY
BACKGROUND



OVERVIEW OF DRAFT
REPORT CONTENT



KEY TAKEAWAYS



FCPA Dog Park Study Background

Dogs in Fairfax County



81,007 dogs were registered in Fairfax County in 2018



Approximately 19.3% of county households own a dog



Fairfax County's growing population means more dogs

Why did the Park Authority conduct a dog park study?



How did the
Park Authority
conduct the
study?



Cross-Agency Approach



Research and Analysis



Public Engagement



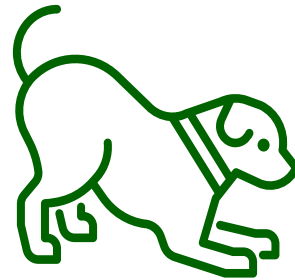


Draft Report Overview

What we heard- Survey & Comments



Over 4,600 participated in the online survey



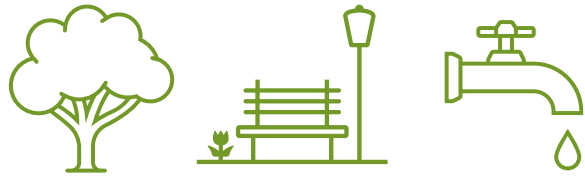
90% of survey respondents shared that they own a dog



2,000+ in-depth comments on dog parks

What we heard – Survey & Comments

Space, trash receptacles, shade, water, and parking



are the **most important features** in a dog park



A **20-minute drive** and a **10-minute walk** were the top choices for travel to a dog park



700+ respondents indicated **interest in learning about volunteering** in FCPA dog parks



Surface conditions, inattentive owners, and lack of water were the **top concerns** in FCPA's dog parks

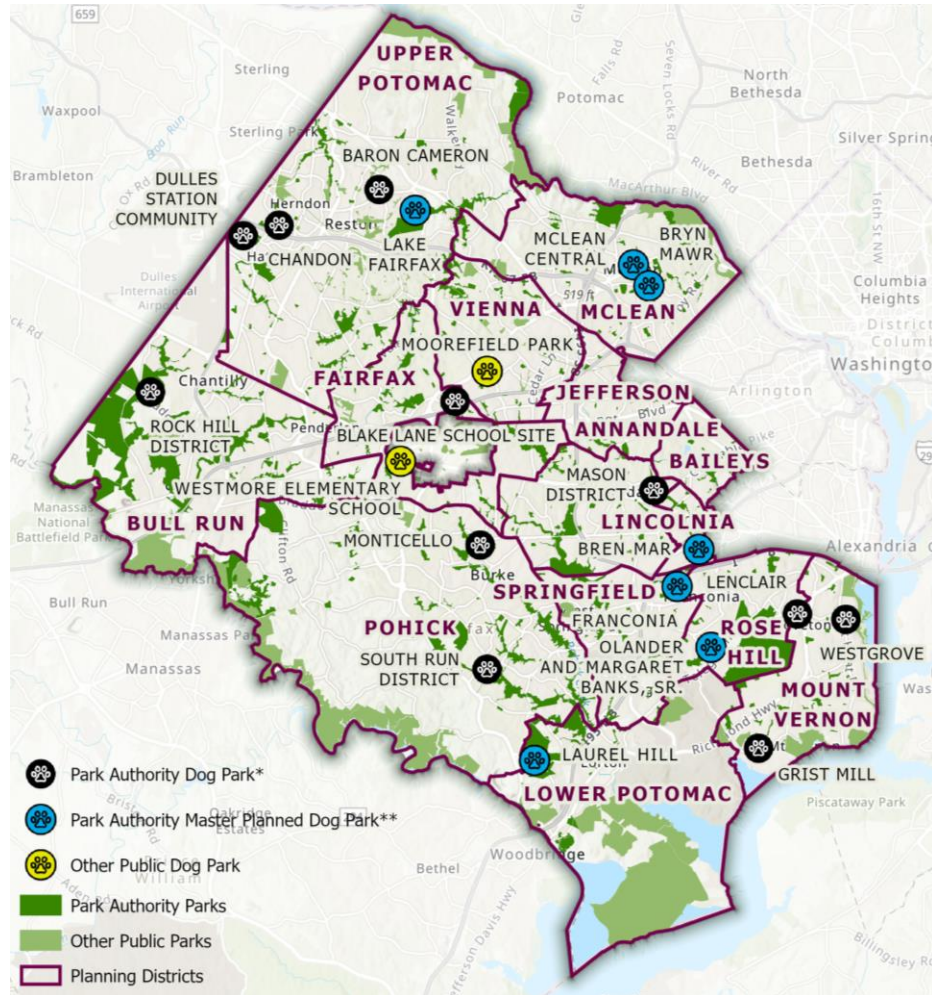
What's in the dog park study report?

The report is organized around six themes with analysis, findings, and recommendations provided for each section:



- Planning
- Design
- Operations and Maintenance
- Volunteering
- Funding Sources, Partnerships and Donation Opportunities
- Rules and Enforcement

Planning



Existing and Planned FCPA Dog Parks in Fairfax County

- FCPA conducted a variety of planning analyses
 - Examination of the agency Needs Assessment
 - Benchmarking analysis
 - Spatial analyses
- Key recommendations include:
 - Plan for 20-minute driving access to dog parks in the county, and consider 10-minute walk in urban areas
 - Consider geographic distribution, location of licensed dogs, and planned dog parks
 - Conduct an inventory of all privately owned, publicly accessible dog parks in the county

Design



- Recommendations for Dog Park Size and Siting
- Design Guidelines & Best Practices
 - Surfacing & Accessibility
 - Fencing
 - Designated Separate Dog Areas
 - Site Furniture & Amenities
 - Shade
 - Drinking Fountains
 - Signage

Operations & Maintenance

- Maintenance Standards & Frequency
- Increases in maintenance will require additional resources
- Volunteers help with oversight and reporting
- Trash Receptacles and Dog Waste Bag Stations
- Prominent Signage is important



Volunteering



- Support formation of park volunteer teams
- Volunteering options in dog parks
- Duties appropriate for volunteers to perform
- Dog park checklist and incident reports developed

Funding Sources, Partnerships & Donations

- Park bond funding is one option for dog park construction
- Membership and User Fees are not recommended
- Leveraging voluntary contributions through dog registrations could help offset maintenance costs
- Partnerships with communities are encouraged
- Donation opportunities through Fairfax County Park Foundation (FCPF)



Rules & Enforcement



- Safety is of utmost importance
- No changes to existing rules & hours
- Need for additional enforcement
- Clear signage is needed
- Dog park webpage and brochures should emphasize rules, reporting procedures, and dog park etiquette



Key Takeaways Summary





Key Takeaways Summary

Through the dog park study, the Park Authority:

- Heard from the public about dog park preferences, suggestions, and ideas, which informed many recommendations throughout the study
- Evaluated countywide dog park need, provided recommendations for future dog park planning, and updated site placement guidelines
- Created dog park design guidelines and other tools
- Identified operations and maintenance best practices

Key Takeaways Summary

Through the dog park study, the Park Authority (*continued*):

- Recommended potential design and operational improvements to existing FCPA dog parks
- Evaluated dog park volunteering options and identified appropriate volunteer responsibilities
- Examined and recommended funding sources, partnerships, and donation opportunities through FCPF
- Analyzed rules, enforcement, and etiquette

What's Next?



Comments on the report accepted until April 23, 2021
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/dog-park-study
or Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov



Continue to check the study webpage for project updates:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/dog-park-study



Still have questions? Send an email...
Adam Wynn, PLA, Project Manager
e-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov



We want your feedback!

**SHARE YOUR IDEAS, COMMENTS, AND QUESTIONS
about the draft report**

By Computer Via the Public Input Chat Portal

Or By Phone:

Phone: (1) 855-925-2801

Meeting Code: 8035

When calling in, please ensure the following:

- Turn down your computer's volume
- Listen carefully for when your turn is identified
- State your name before making your comments

