Dog Park Subcommittee Presentation
Additional Information Gathered

1) Meetings with Parks & Recreation Staff
2) Interview with Albany Police Chief
3) Other feedback considered:
   a) Petition from Section B users
   b) Emails from Section B neighbors to Parks & Rec Dept
   c) Petition for small dog park
   d) Nextdoor comments
Memorial Park, Section B
Memorial Park Section B Outreach

Neighborhood survey

- In-person outreach to 43 homes located within 500 feet of Section B
- Door hanger notifications
- Two in-person visits
- Written notification
- 60% response rate -- 26 of 43 households
Memorial Park Section B neighborhood survey results

How do you feel about Memorial Park, Section B as a dog usage area?

- Positive: 62% (16 of 23 households)
- Negative: 19% (5 of 23 households)
- Neutral/no comment: 19% (5 of 23 households)
Memorial Park Section B neighborhood survey results

DO YOU USE SECTION B OR A DOG PARK WITH OR WITHOUT A PET?

- Yes/I will soon: 44%
- No: 56%
Memorial Park Section B neighborhood survey results

**DO YOU THINK SECTION B USERS ARE RESPECTFUL OF THE RULES?**

- Yes/Most of the time: 65%
- No: 8%
- I don't know/no comment: 27%
Memorial Park Section B neighborhood survey results

“Do you have any suggestions for how Section B can better work with the neighborhood?”

Aesthetics

Amenities for dogs and dog owners

Signage and enforcement of the rules
Memorial Park Section B user surveys-- Dog owners

- Clipboards with paper surveys administered weekdays and weekends
- Surveyed noon, afternoon, and evening groups
- 107 surveys completed
Memorial Park Section B user outreach

How often do you use Section B?

- less than once a month
- once a month
- a few times a month
- once a week
- more than once a week
Memorial Park Section B user outreach

How far do you travel to come to Section B?

- More than 3 miles: 3%
- 1-3 miles away: 22%
- Within 1 mile away: 34%
- Within a few blocks: 41%
Memorial Park Section B user survey results

Section B's location is a key reason I use the park

- Strongly Agree: 80
- Somewhat Agree: 10
- Somewhat Disagree: 1
- Strongly Disagree: 0
Memorial Park Section B user survey results

I choose Section B over other local dog parks because:

- Location/convenience
- Community/connectedness
- Well-behaved dogs and friendly owners
General Dog Park Survey

Answer three questions:

Is there a need/desire for additional dog facilities in Albany?

What features would be most important in a facility?

What would be a good location for a new facility?

- Open to all, but mostly people with dogs, using dog facilities
- Publicized via city eNews, Nextdoor
- Signs placed at Memorial Park, Terrace Park, the Bulb
- 260 Responses received before deadline (May 27)
- 235 own or walk a dog, 25 do not own or walk a dog
Survey Results: Is there a need/desire for additional facilities for dogs in Albany?

- Not enough: 53%
- Right amount: 35%
- Too much: 5%
- No opinion: 7%
Survey Results: What features would be most important in a facility?

- **Location is a key reason I use the area**
  - Strongly Agree: 50%
  - Somewhat Agree: 38%
  - Somewhat Disagree: 13%
  - Strongly Disagree: 5%

- **Ground surface is a key reason I use the area**
  - Strongly Agree: 25%
  - Somewhat Agree: 47%
  - Somewhat Disagree: 18%
  - Strongly Disagree: 10%

- **Area size is a key reason I use the area**
  - Strongly Agree: 44%
  - Somewhat Agree: 44%
  - Somewhat Disagree: 13%
  - Strongly Disagree: 5%

- **Fencing is a key reason I use the area**
  - Strongly Agree: 25%
  - Somewhat Agree: 29%
  - Somewhat Disagree: 23%
  - Strongly Disagree: 23%
Current Off-Leash Dog Friendly Areas in Albany

Off-Leash Dog Areas in Albany
- Current Dog-Friendly Locations
- Current Off-Leash Dog Area

- Albany Bulb & Neck
- Memorial Park Section B
- Lawn at Jewel’s Terrace Park
- Greenway @ Dartmouth
Possible Dog Park Locations in Albany

Off-Leash Dog Areas in Albany

- Current Dog-Friendly Locations
- Current Off-Leash Dog Area
- Possible Dog Park Locations

*No specific location intended on Greenway
Survey Results: What would be a good location for a new facility?

Location Scores:
- Ocean View Park: 24%
- Near Tracks: 25%
- Key Route Median: 23%
- Ohlone Greenway: 28%
General Dog Park Survey

Key takeaways:

- There is interest in additional facilities for off-leash dogs in Albany
  - A majority of respondents would like to see more facilities
  - A new facility would likely see lots of use

- A new facility should:
  - have a grass or natural surface
  - be as large as possible
  - be open as close to year-round as possible

- No clear preference on location expressed
  - location should be convenient (perhaps fill a current gap)
May 30th Dog Park Workshop
May 30th Dog Park Workshop

Pros/Cons of continuing current conditions for these dog usage locations:

- Terrace Park
- Albany Bulb
- Ohlone Greenway @ Dartmouth

Pros/cons potential dog park locations:

- Memorial Park, Section B-- or alternate use?
- Key Route (between Portland and Washington)
- Somewhere on Ohlone Greenway
- Open space near train tracks & under freeway
- Other location?

Amenities for dog park

Questions
May 30th Dog Park Workshop

Key takeaways:

- No strong winner for location of a 2nd dog park
- Geographically diverse 2nd dog park - local/walkable is valued
- “My dog is my exercise machine”
- People uncomfortable with off-leash dogs value fenced-in areas
- Year-round availability (Section B was closed 123 days this past winter)
- Desired amenities for dog park
  - Fencing of right height
  - Water spigot
  - Year-round availability (may require different surface)
  - Signage for rules, no excessive barking, etc.
  - Double gates
  - Trees for shade, aesthetics
Budgets have traditionally included plenty of money that Democrats and Republicans want to put back into their own districts for special projects. This year’s budget is no exception.

Lawmakers will vote to spend $3 million on a dog park in Rancho Cucamonga and $2.5 million on a new elevator at the California Science Center in Los Angeles. The budget also gives $2 million to the Latino Theater Company, $1.1 million to San Francisco for construction on two LGBTQ spaces and $950,000 to a pair of senior centers.
Recommendations - Designate Memorial Park, Section B an official dog park

Majority (62%) of neighbors approve of Section B as a dog usage area, including majority of most immediate neighbors

Police Chief reports few problems since timed gate was installed

Many neighbors use and value Section B as a dog facility

Reduces confusion about status
## Recommendations: Develop Detailed plan to improve Section B to mitigate neighborhood concerns

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section B neighbor concerns:</th>
<th>Citywide dog owner desired amenities:</th>
<th>PROSC recommendation:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aesthetics – trees, plantings and benches</td>
<td>Trees for shade</td>
<td>Aesthetics: trees, benches, plantings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enforcement of hours to reduce noise impacts</td>
<td>Fencing of right height</td>
<td>Reduction of noise: double gate, move entry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintain existing hours and grass surface</td>
<td>Water spigot</td>
<td>Enforcement: signage of rules, creative solutions</td>
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<td>Signage for rules</td>
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<td>Year-round availability</td>
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</tbody>
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Recommendations: Improve aesthetics-- trees, plantings, benches
Recommendation: Move entry to reduce noise impact & make water source more convenient
Recommendations: Double-gate for user convenience and to reduce noise impacts
Recommendations – Improved signage to emphasize rules
Recommendation: Explore additional locations for a dog park

- Clear support for additional dog facilities
- May reduce heavy usage at existing facilities
- No consensus on new location
- Convenience important - explore locations in neighborhoods that are far from existing dog usage areas
Parks, Recreation, Open Space Commission
Dog Park Subcommittee

Thank you
Bruce King Memorial Dog Park, El Cerrito

~33'
May 30th Dog Park Workshop

Key Route just north of Washington.
One of several possible locations on Albany’s Ohlone greenway. This one is between Marin & Dartmouth.
May 30th Dog Park Workshop

CalTrans land between railroad tracks and freeway.