

1 [Policy Governing Dogs in City Parks.]

2

3 **Ordinance amending the Park Code by adding Article 5A governing Dog Play Voice-**
4 **Control Areas in City parks and providing the site requirements for Dog Play Voice-**
5 **Control Areas, including requirements for location, size, boundaries, surfacing and**
6 **amenities; providing the procedure for establishing and eliminating Dog Play Voice-**
7 **Control Areas; ~~establishing a procedure for entering into partnerships with the City to~~**
8 **~~administer Dog Play Areas; establishing the responsibilities of such partnerships;~~**
9 **setting guidelines for the maintenance and management of Dog Play Voice-Control**
10 **Areas; setting the rules of conduct within Dog Play Voice-Control Areas; creating an**
11 **Advisory Committee to advise the City regarding Dog Play Voice-Control Area issues;**
12 **increasing the fine for failure to possess a current dog license to \$100; describing the**
13 **funding for Dog Play Voice-Control Areas; establishing a procedure for handling**
14 **complaints regarding Dog Play Voice-Control Areas; and setting rules for the use of**
15 **Dog Play Voice-Control Areas by professional dog walkers.**

16

17 Note: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;
18 deletions are *strikethrough italics Times New Roman*.
19 Board amendment additions are double underlined.
20 Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

19

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

20

Section 1. The San Francisco Park Code is hereby amended by adding Article 5A to

21

read as follows:

22

Article 5A DOG PLAY VOICE-CONTROL AREAS

23

SEC. 5A.01 PURPOSE.

24

(a) Dogs on leash are permitted in all areas of parks with the exception of athletic fields,

25

tennis, basketball and volleyball courts, Sensitive Habitat Areas from which humans have also

1 been barred, either seasonally or permanently, and those areas identified in Section 5.02 of the
2 Park Code, which include children's play areas, buildings, the Zoological Gardens and the Arboretum,
3 Japanese Tea Garden and Conservatory Valley in Golden Gate Park. Pursuant to Section 41.12 of
4 the San Francisco Health Code, dogs are permitted off-leash only in those areas of parks that
5 have been designated by the Recreation and Park Commission as animal exercise areas.
6 The purpose of this section is to provide rules and guidelines to allow the Recreation and Park
7 Department to support the on-going off-leash use of parks by dogs and their guardians. The
8 Department must also ensure that all citizens can share our scarce urban parks and open spaces
9 without adversely affecting one another or the natural environment.

10 (b) On July 1, 2003, Voice Control Areas shall become the default situation in any park
11 for which an alternative proposal has not been submitted by the community and approved by
12 the Dog Advisory Committee and the Recreation and Park Department. Between adoption of
13 this Article and July 1, 2003, enforcement of dog-related laws and regulations will follow the
14 policies in effect prior to May 8, 2002.

15 SEC. 5A.02 DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this Article, the following definitions will
16 apply:

17 (a) Dog Play Voice-Control Area [VCA] shall mean those parks or spaces within parks
18 designated by the Recreation and Park Department for off-leash dog use. Types of VCA shall
19 include:

20 (1) Shared Use: The default situation, whereby parks, or parts of parks, are designated
21 as accessible for off-leash dog use. Notice shall be properly given that these areas are to be
22 shared by all responsible park users.

23 (2) Timed Use: Areas where off-leash dog recreation is permitted during certain hours
24 of the day. Notice shall be properly given that such areas are to be shared or used solely by
25 dogs and their owners during the designated hours.

1 (3) Single Use: A designated, enclosed or defined park space for off-leash recreation
2 only.

3 (b) Owner/Guardian shall mean any person who possesses, has title to, has an interest in,
4 harbors an animal, or has control, custody or possession of an animal. The word "own" shall include
5 all these shades of meaning.

6 (c) Community Partner shall mean an active volunteer group that assists the
7 Department in monitoring and maintaining a Dog Play Area. RPD shall mean San Francisco
8 Recreation and Park Department.

9 (d) Dog Advisory Committee shall mean the committee formed by the General Manager
10 of the Recreation and Park Department to create, monitor, and mediate the community process
11 surrounding Dog Play Voice-Control Areas. Its membership shall be consistent with other
12 recreation-related committees, including the Tennis Advisory Committee and the Ground
13 Sports Advisory Committee.

14 (e) Athletic Fields shall mean any field under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park
15 Department and for which it issues permits or accepts reservations.

16 (f) Children's Play Area shall mean any area that is in immediate proximity to a children's
17 play structure, apparatus or sandbox.

18 (g) Significant Natural Resource Area shall mean an area designated in the Recreation and
19 Park Commission's Significant Natural Resources Management Plan, which, in 1995, listed over 30
20 open spaces that are generally remnants of San Francisco's original landscape and support important
21 plant and animal populations and habitats. The Department's Natural Areas Program shall conduct
22 a scientific study and a thorough neighborhood public process in order to more clearly designate
23 and define these areas.

24 (h) Sensitive Habitat Area shall mean those areas within Significant Natural Resource
25 Areas that support or are likely to support locally important, rare, threatened or endangered

1 ~~species.~~ Of the approximately 500 acres of Natural Areas available for recreational use,
2 approximately 20% would be considered Sensitive Habitat Areas. Sensitive Habitat Areas
3 include sensitive wildlife areas such as breeding habitat for birds, sensitive remnant native
4 plant communities such as wetlands, sensitive plant populations such as locally rare
5 wildflower species, high erosion prone areas, active restoration areas (temporary designation
6 only). The Recreation and Park Department shall conduct a scientific study and a thorough
7 neighborhood public process in order to more clearly designate and define these areas, subject to
8 public review and comment.

9 SEC. 5A.03 SITE CRITERIA FOR DOG-PLAY VOICE-CONTROL AREAS. The Recreation
10 and Park Department, in partnership with the Dog Advisory Committee, shall use the following
11 criteria to evaluate existing and potential new Dog-Play Voice-Control Areas.

12 (a) Location.

13 (1) The Recreation and Park Department will consider the amount of available park land,
14 the size of the dog population, the proximity to significant natural areas, traditional and
15 established park-use patterns, and community interest and input and the proximity to other
16 Dog-Play Areas and other existing park uses in making its determination of the size and nature of
17 each Dog-Play Voice-Control Area. The Recreation and Park Department shall attempt to place
18 Dog-Play Voice-Control Areas in all neighborhoods with adequate park space and shall work
19 closely with the Dog Advisory Committee and Community Partners the community to identify
20 suitable spaces for additional Dog-Play Voice-Control Areas.

21 (2) Dog-Play Voice-Control Areas should be neighborhood friendly and, at a minimum,
22 shall be located where they will not adversely impact the surrounding neighborhood and open
23 space by causing ongoing conflicts due to overcrowding, detriment to the surrounding
24 environment due to digging or trampling, displacement of established recreational activities,
25 including passive recreation, or interference with the City's goal of allowing dogs and owners

1 ~~to exercise and socialize in a safe area~~ best address the needs and concerns of the
2 neighborhood and of park users.

3 (3) Although some noise is expected and will not preclude the establishment of a Dog Play
4 Voice-Control Area, in siting Dog Play Voice-Control Areas the Recreation and Park Department
5 shall take into account the distance from residences so that noise and activity levels are no more
6 disruptive to neighbors than typical park uses. If the VCA is to be of the Single Use variety, the
7 Department shall also consider whether the site is in a well drained area of the park, and whether the
8 Department has the financial resources to install the infrastructure necessary for the Dog Play Voice-
9 Control Area and to maintain said area. The Department must ensure that all Dog Play Voice-
10 Control Areas meet applicable disability access laws and regulations, including but not limited to the
11 Americans with Disabilities Act and the requirements of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

12 (b) Size. Where the Voice-Control Area is a section of the park, rather than the
13 entire park, the size of a Dog Play Area the Voice-Control Area shall reflect the amount of
14 available land, the size of the dog population, other uses of the park and the park size. Wherever
15 possible, Dog Play Voice-Control Areas shall be at least 30,000 square feet. The minimum size of
16 a Dog Play Area shall be 10,000 square feet.

17 (c) Signage, Boundaries and Barriers.

18 The Recreation and Park Department shall ensure that all Dog Play Voice-Control Areas
19 have adequate signage, informing dog owners/guardians of the location, rules and
20 responsibilities of the off-leash area and informing park users of the presence of off-leash
21 dogs. include adequate delineation, natural or man-made, to protect dogs from vehicles, steep
22 cliffs, and other hazards, as well as to prevent conflicts with other park users. The boundaries
23 of Dog Play Areas will be identified with physical enclosures. Although some fencing will be
24 required to separate adjacent land uses, Barriers will not be necessary in Shared Use and
25 Timed Use areas. Where community consensus calls for physical barriers to be part of the

1 VCA design, the Recreation and Park Department shall, to the extent possible, utilize non-fence
2 alternatives. The Department shall endeavor to create physical enclosures barriers that are
3 aesthetically pleasing and utilize landscape features such as shrubs and vines. The Department shall
4 determine the necessity, type, size and location of the physical enclosure barriers on a case-by-case
5 basis, with extensive input from the community and the Dog Advisory Committee. In evaluating
6 the type of enclosure, the Department shall consider the adjacent site, size of the Dog Play Voice-
7 Control Area, existing active park uses, proximity to Significant Natural Resource Areas, and
8 historic use patterns.

9 (d) Surfacing of Dog Play Voice-Control Areas. Surfacing in Shared Use and Timed
10 Use areas will be consistent with, and appropriate to, general use of the park (e.g., turf in
11 fields and meadows, pavement on pathways and fire roads, dirt or wood chips on trails).
12 Whenever possible, Single Use VCAs will be surfaced with turf. The Recreation and Park
13 Department may, in accordance with its turf management practices, close Dog Play Voice-Control
14 Areas with turf surfaces during inclement weather and routine maintenance. In these circumstances
15 the Recreation and Park Department shall post signs directing users to the nearest alternate Dog Play
16 Voice-Control Area. If no alternate Voice-Control Area exists within reasonable walking
17 distance of the area closed for maintenance, RPD will designate a temporary Dog Play Voice-
18 Control area nearby. If the Recreation and Park Department and the Dog Play Area Community
19 Partners, with help from community volunteers, cannot maintain a reasonable turf planting, the
20 Recreation and Park Department and the community shall evaluate alternate materials or size
21 adjustments for these specific sites. Where maintaining turf is shown to be impossible, the policy
22 of the City and County shall be to favor the use of alternate materials such as sand, gravel,
23 decomposed granite, synthetic turf, or a combination of these materials in smaller Dog Play Voice-
24 Control Areas to allow for regular and appropriate maintenance.

1 (e) Dog Play Voice-Control Area Amenities. The Recreation and Park Department shall
2 provide the following amenities at all Dog Play Voice-Control Areas:

3 (1) Bag dispensers.

4 (2) Signs.

5 (3) Bench(s).

6 (4) Surface material.

7 (5) Barriers (if necessary).

8 (6) Trash cans.

9 (7) For safety, all fully enclosed Voice-Control Areas shall include double gates in at
10 least two locations.

11 (8) Lighting. If it is physically possible, and will not adversely affect surrounding areas, the
12 Recreation and Park Department shall install lighting at Dog Play in Voice-Control Areas.

13 (9) The Recreation and Park Department shall work closely with Community Partners the
14 community and the Dog Advisory Committee to identify funding sources for additional amenities such
15 as lighting, water fountains, or informational kiosks.

16 SEC. 5A.04 NEW DOG PLAY VOICE-CONTROL AREAS. A VCA may be established
17 by request of the community, of RPD or of the Neighborhood Services & Recreation
18 Committee of the Board of Supervisors in response to expressed community interest. Based
19 on the criteria outlined in section 5A.03(a) and the data gathered through the community
20 process, the new VCA shall conform to one of the following types. Where space or
21 landscaping allows, or need dictates, a single park may also contain more than one type of
22 VCA. In accordance with the following guidelines, the Recreation and Park Department shall
23 initiate a new Dog Play Area if the criteria listed in section 5A.03(a) are met and the Advisory
24 Committee supports the Dog Play Area:

1 (a) — Regional Parks Larger than 35 Acres. The boundaries used shall be soft
2 barriers such as language posts or field markers delineating approved areas, except when in
3 close proximity to conflicting uses such as streams or Sensitive Habitat Areas. The overall
4 park size and topography shall determine the size of the Dog Play Area. The Department will
5 choose the surface materials based on the existing conditions, i.e. turf in meadows and dirt on
6 trails. In addition, all park users must be able to access the facility without encountering off-
7 leash dogs, dogs must not be able to directly access prohibited areas such as Sensitive
8 Habitat Areas, and the necessary signage must be installed to designate which areas are
9 open to off-leash use and which are not. The public must be able to use the Dog Play Area at
10 its discretion for other purposes. Finally, the Department may impose additional restrictions in
11 some accessible Natural Areas on a case-by-case basis such as requiring dogs to stay on-
12 trail, under voice control, or on-leash. Some areas may require seasonal restrictions.

13 (b) — Large Parks and Squares Between 10 and 35 Acres. The Department may
14 decide to utilize unfenced Dog Play Areas if paths, boundaries, signs, topographic features,
15 landscaping and/or other use separation features can reasonably define the Dog Play Area.
16 However, partial physical barriers may be required to delineate various uses. These areas
17 will be a minimum of 30,000 square feet. The majority of these Dog Play Areas will be turf
18 surfaces. The Recreation and Park Department shall consider use of mixed surface materials
19 as required to meet optimum maintenance levels. A Dog Play Area in a large park or square
20 shall not be adjacent to a Significant Habitat Area or a playground unless it is enclosed within
21 a hard barrier. The Dog Play Area should include direct access to at least one edge of the
22 park to help facilitate access. A major access path or trail may be used for this purpose, but
23 dogs must be leashed on the path or trail. The public must be permitted to use these Dog
24 Play Areas at its discretion for other purposes. Finally, the Department may impose additional
25 restrictions in some accessible Natural Areas on a case-by-case basis, such as requiring dogs

1 to stay on trail, under voice control, or on-leash. Some areas may require seasonal
2 restrictions.

3 (c) — ~~Smaller Parks and Playgrounds Between 0 and 10 Acres. Dog Play Areas shall~~
4 ~~have physical enclosures. The Recreation and Park Department shall use other measures to~~
5 ~~the extent possible to screen the effects of the enclosures. These areas will be a minimum of~~
6 ~~10,000 square feet. The Department shall endeavor to use surfaces other than turf, or shall~~
7 ~~consider combinations of turf and more sustainable surfaces. For safety, Dog Play Areas~~
8 ~~shall include double gates in at least two locations. Finally, the Department may impose~~
9 ~~additional restrictions in some accessible Natural Areas on a case-by-case basis, such as~~
10 ~~requiring dogs to stay on trail, under voice control, or on-leash. Some areas may require~~
11 ~~seasonal restrictions. If the community cannot reach a reasonable compromise regarding a~~
12 ~~Dog Play Area in a small park or playground, the Recreation and Park Department shall make~~
13 ~~a recommendation to the Recreation and Park Commission for final approval.~~

14 (a) Shared-Use Areas

15 Shared-Use Areas shall be neighborhood and park-user friendly. There shall be proper notice
16 to other park users that such areas are to be shared with responsible dog caretakers who
17 have their dogs under voice control. All forms of unstructured recreation, including off-leash
18 dog play, shall be permitted at all times when the park is open, with fences/barriers only as
19 deemed necessary by the community. Shared use shall include trails within such parks, and
20 between contiguous parks.

21 (b) Timed-Use Areas

22 Timed-Use Areas shall be neighborhood and park-user friendly. There shall be proper notice
23 to other park users that such areas are to be shared during posted hours with responsible dog
24 caretakers who have their dogs under voice control, or that the area is reserved for off-leash

1 dog recreation during those hours. Designated hours for off-leash recreation shall be guided
2 by logical use patterns and may be adjusted for daylight savings time.

3 (c) Single-Use Areas

4 Single-Use Areas shall be neighborhood friendly and located and designed so that they
5 will not compromise the intent of the single-use area to allow dogs and owners to exercise
6 and socialize safely and pleasantly. Single-use, fenced (or otherwise separated) areas shall
7 be made safe, attractive and comfortable for users both canine and human. Barriers shall be
8 maintained and proper gates installed [see Section 5A.03(e)(7)], foxtails and other hazards
9 removed, surface options (including hardy turf) researched and implemented, and signage
10 installed to educate users regarding the rules and regulations of the space.

11 SEC. 5A.05 RPD STAFFING AND COMMUNITY INPUT PARTNERSHIPS. Dog Play
12 Areas require an active volunteer or partner program. The Recreation and Park Department
13 must have an identifiable responsible partner for each new and existing Dog Play Area to
14 assist with monitoring and maintenance. A current “Friends of” group or a smaller subset or
15 committee of a larger park advocacy group would be sufficient. Community Partners must
16 demonstrate their commitment, organizational skills and willingness to support and promote
17 the Dog Play Area standards.

18 As with other programs within RPD (such as the Natural Areas Program), funding shall
19 be secured and dedicated staff hired to manage off-leash recreation in San Francisco parks.
20 This additional staff shall include a Volunteer Coordinator who shall seek the assistance of
21 active park advocacy and volunteer groups in establishing and maintaining VCAs. “Best
22 Friends” groups (dog owner park advocacy groups) shall be encouraged and supported. Such
23 partnerships shall augment, not replace, the efforts of RPD employees and staff. *Ultimately,*
24 *the maintenance of the parks and the enforcement of rules for off-leash dog recreation shall be the*
25 *responsibility of the city and county of San Francisco.*

1 SEC. 5A.06 MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES. While the
2 Recreation and Park Department has jurisdiction over Dog Play Areas on Recreation and
3 Park Department property, and shall contribute to both the capital and operating expenses,
4 the success of any Dog Play Area is based on the ability of its users to help establish, fund,
5 operate, maintain and monitor the Dog Play Area site. The Recreation and Park Department
6 shall encourage and welcome partnerships in many forms, and shall enter into written
7 agreements with all Community Partners.

8 [following text moved from SEC. 5A.08] Recreation and Park Department and
9 community Partner Responsibilities. Community partners (e.g., “Best Friend” groups, “Friends
10 of” groups), individual users and the Recreation and Park Department shall share the responsibility
11 for maintaining and monitoring Dog Play Voice-Control Areas. The following are general guidelines
12 that the Department shall adhere to in deciding which tasks will be performed by the Community
13 Partner can be reasonably expected of members of the community and which will be performed
14 by the Recreation and Park Department:

15 (a) The Recreation and Park Department shall:

16 (1) Maintain and repair surface (subject to available resources);

17 (2) Maintain surrounding landscape;

18 (3) Repair or replace barriers/boundaries and other basic amenities;

19 (4) Maintain informational signs;

20 (5) Empty waste receptacles;

21 (6) Act as liaison with the Department of Animal Care and Control;

22 (7) Post hours of operation for Dog Play Voice-Control Areas;

23 (8) Regulate hours of Dog Play Voice-Control Areas to best serve maintenance needs;

24 (9) Provide cost estimates for new or renovated Dog Play Voice-Control Areas;

25 (10) Process necessary regulatory permits;

1 (11) Provide and manage permits for Professional Dog-Walkers;

2 (12) Monitor ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Area to determine general compliance and
3 effectiveness;

4 (13) Report findings to the Advisory Committee and community;

5 (14) Work with the community and Advisory Committee to remedy any flaws in ~~Dog Play~~
6 Voice-Control Area design, location, or infrastructure;

7 (15) Publish VCA rules and other educational materials to be distributed to community;

8 (16) Manage off-leash recreation as they do other types of recreation, to ensure
9 equitable, courteous, safe sharing of the parks.

10 (b) ~~The Community Partners~~ members and volunteer groups shall:

11 (1) Provide stewardship of ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Areas to uphold policy standards,
12 ensure that users are courteous, responsible and fair, and foster a safe shared environment;

13 (2) Distribute ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Area rules and other educational materials to park
14 users.

15 (3) Serve as good role models;

16 (4) Ensure ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Areas are kept free of animal feces;

17 (5) Alert Recreation and Park Department and Advisory Committee to maintenance needs;

18 (6) Help establish priorities for repair and renovation;

19 (7) Schedule routine cleanup and work days as necessary;

20 (8) Raise funds to support additional amenities based on ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Area needs.

21 Such fundraising shall be administered by an appropriate 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

22 ~~(9) Enter into an agreement with the Recreation and Park Department under the~~
23 ~~auspices of the Advisory Committee. If the Community Partner fails to meet the standards~~
24 ~~and responsibilities set forth in the agreement, the Recreation and Park Department will~~
25 ~~review the situation and may terminate the agreement with the Community Partner.~~

1 SEC. 5A.07 ~~DOG-PLAY VOICE-CONTROL~~ AREA RULES AND SIGNAGE. The Advisory
2 Committee and the Recreation and Park Department shall develop standard signage adequate to
3 inform the public of the rules governing ~~Dog Play Voice-Control~~ Areas. The Recreation and Park
4 Department shall consider the following language for inclusion on signs in ~~Dog Play Voice-Control~~
5 Areas:

6 (a) Your neighbors and the Recreation and Park Department appreciate responsible dog
7 ownership.

8 (b) All dogs must be licensed and fully vaccinated before entering the ~~Dog Play Voice-~~
9 Control Area.

10 ~~(c) No dog less than 4 months old shall be permitted in the Dog Play Area.~~

11 ~~(d)(c) Female dogs in heat are not allowed. should be kept on-leash.~~

12 ~~(e) No more than three dogs per owner are allowed in the Dog Play Area at one time.~~

13 ~~(f)(d) Professional dog walkers may not use a ~~Dog Play Voice-Control~~ Area for the conduct~~
14 ~~of their business, unless they have obtained a permit from the Recreation and Park Department.~~

15 ~~(g)(e) Animals must be leashed when entering and exiting the ~~Dog Play Voice-Control~~ Area.~~

16 ~~(h)(f) Owners shall be in possession of a leash for each dog at all times.~~

17 ~~(i)(g) Dogs must be under control of their owners at all times.~~

18 ~~(j)(h) Owners must control excessive barking and noise.~~

19 ~~(k)(i) Owners must pick up and dispose of dog waste in a proper manner.~~

20 ~~(l)(j) Aggressive dogs (e.g., snarling, unwanted jumping) must be leashed immediately.~~

21 ~~(k)(k) Owners must fill holes dug by their dogs prior to leaving the Dog Play Area. not~~
22 ~~allow their dogs to dig (except in areas set aside for this purpose) or engage in destructive~~
23 ~~behavior. If a dog does dig, the owner must fill the hole before leaving the VCA.~~

24 [Text moved to 5A.06] SEC. 5A.08 Recreation and Park Department and community
25 Partner Responsibilities. Community Partners and the Recreation and Park Department shall

1 share the responsibility for maintaining and monitoring Dog Play Areas. The following are
2 general guidelines that the Department shall adhere to in deciding which tasks will be
3 performed by the Community Partner and which will be performed by the Recreation and Park
4 Department:

5 (a) — The Recreation and Park Department shall:

6 (1) Maintain and repair surface (subject to available resources).

7 (2) Maintain surrounding landscape.

8 (3) Repair or replace barriers/boundaries and other basic amenities.

9 (4) Maintain informational signs.

10 (5) Empty waste receptacles.

11 (6) Act as liaison with the Department of Animal Care and Control.

12 (7) Post hours of operation for Dog Play Areas.

13 (8) Regulate hours of Dog Play Areas to best serve maintenance needs.

14 (9) Provide cost estimates for new or renovated Dog Play Areas.

15 (10) Process necessary regulatory permits.

16 (11) Provide and manage permits for Professional Dog Walkers.

17 (12) Monitor Dog Play Area to determine general compliance and effectiveness.

18 (13) Report findings to the Advisory Committee and community.

19 (14) Work with partners and Advisory Committee to remedy any flaws in Dog Play

20 Area design, location, or infrastructure.

21 (b) — The Community Partners shall:

22 (1) Provide stewardship of Dog Play Area to uphold policy standards.

23 (2) Distribute Dog Play Area rules and other educational materials to park users.

24 (3) Serve as good role models.

25 (4) Ensure Dog Play Area is kept free of animal feces.

1 ~~(5) Alert Recreation and Park Department and Advisory Committee to maintenance~~
2 ~~needs.~~

3 ~~(6) Help establish priorities for repair and renovation.~~

4 ~~(7) Schedule routine cleanup and work days as necessary.~~

5 ~~(8) Raise funds to support additional amenities based on Dog Play Area needs.~~

6 ~~(9) Enter into an agreement with the Recreation and Park Department under the~~
7 ~~auspices of the Advisory Committee. If the Community Partner fails to meet the standards~~
8 ~~and responsibilities set forth in the agreement, the Recreation and Park Department will~~
9 ~~review the situation and my terminate the agreement with the Community Partner.~~

10 ~~SEC. 5A.09, 5A.08 ADVISORY COMMITTEE.~~

11 ~~(a) Membership. The Recreation and Park Department shall form an official Dog~~
12 ~~Advisory Committee with balanced representation from the Dog Play Area community,~~
13 ~~children's groups, environmental groups, other park users, and interested government~~
14 ~~agencies. The General Manager of the Recreation and Park Department shall appoint the~~
15 ~~members and the chairperson of the Advisory Committee and shall provide staff to moderate~~
16 ~~the Committee's meetings and support its work. The Advisory Committee shall consist of 11~~
17 ~~members, eight of whom will be selected from Citywide park advocacy organizations, and~~
18 ~~three of whom will represent Citywide government institutions. A partial list of organizations~~
19 ~~and institutions from whom representatives may be selected includes, but is not limited to: An~~
20 ~~advisory committee shall be formed of representatives of various non-governmental~~
21 ~~stakeholder groups promoting canine welfare and responsible dog ownership and activities.~~
22 ~~Organizations of recognized accreditation and standing will be invited to nominate~~
23 ~~representatives to this body. These may include, but are not limited to:~~

24 ~~(1) SFSPCA.~~

25 ~~(2) SFDOG.~~

- 1 ~~(3) Coleman Advocates.~~
- 2 ~~(4) Audubon Society.~~
- 3 ~~(5) Sierra Club.~~
- 4 ~~(6) Department of the Environment.~~
- 5 ~~(7) Neighborhood Parks Council.~~
- 6 ~~(8) SF Animal Care & Control.~~
- 7 ~~(9) SF Police Department~~
- 8 ~~(10) (3) Friends of ACC.~~
- 9 ~~(11) (4) PAWS (Pets are Wonderful Support).~~
- 10 ~~(12) Fund for Animals.~~
- 11 ~~(13) Native Plant Society.~~
- 12 ~~(14) Environmental Quality for Urban Parks.~~
- 13 (5) Green Friends

14 Members will be appointed by the Board of Supervisors Neighborhood Services and Recreation
15 Committee. A Chair and Secretary for the body shall be chosen by the advisory committee from within
16 the committee.

17 Non-voting members shall be invited to attend from the following city organizations:

18 (1) SF Police Department;

19 (2) SF Animal Care & Control;

20 (3) Animal Welfare Commission.

21 Members shall serve for a term of one year, which may be extended for an additional
22 year.

23 (b) Responsibilities. The Advisory Committee, which shall establish its own rules of
24 procedure and the length of its members' terms of office, shall perform the following duties for
25 the Recreation and Park Department:

1 (1) Consider community requests for new off-leash areas or new amenities and ensure
2 that a thorough community process is followed.

3 ~~(1)~~ (2) Help identify volunteer opportunities.

4 ~~(2)~~ (3) Organize educational and recreational events such as obedience classes, and canine
5 good citizen tests, programming for kids with dogs.

6 ~~(3)~~ (4) Assist in developing and distributing educational information.

7 ~~(4)~~ (5) Organize collaborative events throughout the City such as vaccination and licensing
8 days.

9 ~~(5)~~ (6) Assist in the mediation of neighborhood park disputes related to ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-
10 Control Areas.

11 ~~(6)~~ (7) Recommend community guidelines.

12 ~~(7)~~ (8) Promote good community relations.

13 ~~(8)~~ (9) Solicit and identify funding for amenities and improvements not provided by the
14 Recreation and Park Department.

15 ~~(9)~~ (10) Assist in review and evaluation of ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Areas and Community
16 Partnerships.

17 ~~(10)~~ (11) Establish a formal complaint evaluation system and ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Area
18 evaluation instrument.

19 ~~(11)~~ (12) Act as liaison between users, local residents, and relevant citizen associations.

20 ~~(12)~~ Identify three Dog Play Area trail or meadow experiences (in regional parks).

21 ~~(13)~~ Draft language for ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Area signs.

22 ~~(14)~~ Report to the Recreation and Park Department Commission two or three times per year to
23 provide an update on ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Area issues.

24 ~~(15)~~ Present a recommendation to the Recreation and Park Department on timed use
25 of parks. The Department, with input from the Advisory Committee, shall prepare and deliver

1 a report to the Recreation and Park Commission no later than October, 2002 on timed use.
2 Make recommendations to RPD, the Supervisors Neighborhood Services & Parks Committee
3 and the Recreation & Parks Commission, as appropriate.

4 (16) Consider community requests for changes in off-leash use, such as changes in
5 timing.

6 (17) Meet every other month, unless deemed otherwise.

7 (18) Conduct meetings in accordance with all City and State public meeting laws.

8 SEC. 5A.10 5A.09 HOURS OF OPERATION. Shared-Use and Single-Use Dog Play
9 Voice-Control Areas shall be open seven days per week, within the posted or legal hours for the park.
10 Timed-Use VCAs shall have morning and afternoon/evening hours posted. These hours shall
11 be determined through community input and shall take into account established park use
12 patterns. The Recreation and Park Department, in association with the Dog Advisory Committee,
13 shall consult with affected neighbors and residents regarding the hours that Dog Play Voice-Control
14 Area facilities may be lighted. The Recreation and Park Department shall restrict the operating hours
15 of any Dog Play Voice-Control Area as necessary to comport with neighborhood input and for
16 maintenance requirements or as recommended by the Dog Advisory Committee to answer
17 neighborhood concerns.

18 SEC. 5A.14 5A.10 EVALUATION OF DOG PLAY VOICE-CONTROL AREAS. The
19 Recreation and Park Department, in partnership with the Dog Advisory Committee, shall conduct
20 an evaluation of a each Dog Play Voice-Control Area one year after it is sited, established, and/or
21 significant renovation has been completed. Existing Dog Play Voice-Control Areas shall be
22 evaluated within one year of effective date of this Article. Thereafter, the Department shall conduct
23 evaluations shall be conducted every three years, unless The Department should conduct
24 evaluations in the interim when conditions warrant reconsideration interim evaluation. Dog
25 Play Voice-Control Area evaluations shall be conducted by a committee comprised of representatives

1 from the Recreation and Park Department, the Advisory Committee, the neighborhood, Animal Care
2 and Control, and relevant local citizen associations. The Advisory Committee and Recreation and
3 Park Department shall develop the evaluation instrument. The evaluations should cover utilization of
4 the ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Area, compliance with rules and regulations, effectiveness of the
5 barriers, and community and fiscal impacts. The evaluations should also include a survey of user and
6 neighborhood satisfaction, conducted by an impartial party, and consider the number, severity, and
7 resolution of complaints raised during the evaluation period as well as positive responses to the
8 VCA.

9 SEC. ~~5A.12~~ 5A.11 COMPLAINTS. The Recreation and Park Department shall attempt to
10 resolve any complaints involving ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Areas within 30 days of the date the
11 complaint is made. The Recreation and Park Department shall report to the Advisory Committee on
12 the status of all complaints. Any complaints that are not resolved within 30 days will be referred to the
13 Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee shall work with the complainant and the Recreation and
14 Park Department to determine an appropriate resolution within 60 days. Final resolution of the
15 complaint is the responsibility of the Recreation and Park Department. The Dog Advisory
16 Committee will keep a detailed database of complaints, both to identify repeat offenders and
17 to identify repeat complainants.

18 Complaints that will be considered by the Committee will include but not be limited to:

- 19 (a) Excessive or inappropriate noise on the part of dogs and their guardians (as with any
20 recreational activity, some noise is expected);
- 21 (b) Destruction of park resources by digging in places not set aside for this activity;
- 22 (c) Unchecked entry of dogs into tot-lot areas;
- 23 (d) Unscooped dog feces;
- 24 (e) Abandonment of hazardous trash in off-leash parks (including, but not limited to,
25 chicken bones and other picnic trash, broken glass, dirty diapers, etc.);

1 (f) Maintenance issues of concern to dog owners or specific to off-leash use, which have
2 been brought to the attention of RPD but remain unresolved after a reasonable period
3 of time (e.g. foxtail removal, broken fountains, turf maintenance, trash-can emptying).

4 Complaints that shall not be considered:

5 (a) Those that are unsubstantiated or constitute harassment:

6 (b) Those that are better left to Animal Care & Control (e.g. vicious dogs, organized dog-
7 fighting, stray dogs):

8 (c) Those that are better left to the police (e.g. vandalism of dog-related amenities,
9 conflicts between human park users):

10 (d) Those that are not related to dogs or off-leash recreation.

11 SEC. 5A.13 5A.12 SIGNS FOR DOG-PLAY VOICE-CONTROL AREAS. The Recreation
12 and Park Department shall provide and install signs at all Dog-Play Voice-Control Areas that outline
13 the rules and regulations for these spaces. The signs will outline current San Francisco regulations
14 and ordinances regarding off-leash dogs, and information that has proven effective in managing off-
15 leash facilities in other cities. When appropriate, the Recreation and Park Department shall also
16 install directional signs to the Dog-Play Voice-Control Area. In addition, the Department shall
17 install informational signs, which shall be placed next to bag dispensers at on-leash sites. The
18 Department shall consider including the following language on those signs: "Your neighbors and the
19 Recreation and Park Department appreciate responsible dog ownership. Please pick up and remove
20 dog waste, leash your dog(s), don't leave your dog unattended, control excessive barking and noise,
21 prevent digging and destructive behavior, and keep your dog's vaccinations and license current. For
22 information regarding dogs in parks, please contact the Recreation and Park Department @ (415) 831-
23 2700 or Animal Care and Control @ (415) 554-6364. See Health Code Sections 40 (a) – (b); 41.12 (a)
24 – (d); 41.15; Park Code Section 3.02 and 5.02."

1 SEC. 5A.14 5A.13 ENFORCEMENT. The Recreation and Park Department shall pursue
2 enforcement of all state and municipal laws regarding ~~dogs in parks.~~ dog feces removal, stray or
3 unattended dogs, vicious and dangerous dogs, and dogs in areas where they are prohibited
4 by Section 5.02 of the Park Code. Pursuant to San Francisco Health Code Section 41.15, all
5 dogs in VCAs must have current dog licenses. After July 1, 2003, the fine for not possessing a
6 current dog license will increase to \$100. The Police Department and the Department of Animal
7 Care and Control shall assist the Recreation and Park Department in this effort. Additional staff
8 positions shall be funded for Animal Care and Control, to facilitate this targeted enforcement.
9 Formal redesignation of the status for any park or relevant section of park (Shared-Use,
10 Timed-Use, Single-Use Area, On-Leash Only, No Dogs Allowed) shall be followed by a public
11 education period of not less than 45 days (during which proper signage shall be installed),
12 which shall be followed by enforcement as applicable in that park. For a period of 90 days
13 after the effective date of this Ordinance the Recreation and Park Department shall provide
14 extensive public education and shall, at the end of that 90-day period, present a joint
15 enforcement policy to the Recreation and Park Commission, for approval. The Recreation
16 and Park Department shall then commence strict and consistent enforcement in accordance
17 with the approved policy. During the 90-day period the Recreation and Park Department shall
18 install informational signs, appoint the Advisory Committee, and distribute educational
19 materials to support a ~~soft~~ enforcement period that will consist of warnings to violators. The
20 Recreation and Park Department will try to designate additional Dog Play Areas during this
21 90-day period and prior to strict enforcement.

22 SEC. 5A.15 5A.14 PROPOSALS FOR NEW DOG PLAY VOICE CONTROL AREAS. The
23 Recreation and Park Department and the Dog Advisory Committee shall consider all written
24 requests from users, neighbors, and ~~Community Partners~~ community groups regarding the
25 establishment of new ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Areas, and adding or repairing amenities at existing

1 Dog Play Voice-Control Areas. ~~The Recreation and Park Department shall evaluate the~~
2 ~~request and make a recommendation to the Advisory Committee within 60 days of receiving~~
3 ~~the request.~~ If the request is for establishment of a new Dog Play Voice-Control Area, a
4 change of hours or boundaries in an existing Voice-Control Area or addition of a major
5 amenity such as lighting, the Advisory Committee shall manage the public process for consideration
6 of the request. ~~The public process shall comport with the Recreation and Park Department's~~
7 ~~accepted community-wide planning process, which includes public notification and opportunity~~
8 ~~for input from users and neighbors, the Recreation and Park Department, and relevant civic~~
9 ~~associations.~~

10 (a) An impartial firm or party shall be contracted to perform a survey of the park. The
11 survey shall look at park use at all times of day on both week days and weekends and shall
12 be conducted during a logical time of year (e.g., not during the rainy season). The surveyors
13 shall be discreet and the survey schedule shall be undisclosed to ensure an accurate reading
14 of park use. The survey shall also note the number, proximity and adequacy of off-leash
15 opportunities in the neighborhood. Surveys shall be made available under the applicable
16 Sunshine laws and ordinances.

17 (b) Facilitated community meetings shall be conducted in each neighborhood to discuss
18 the results of the surveys on that neighborhood's parks and to gather input from residents as
19 to how each park should be designated. No fewer than two (2) meetings shall be held, and
20 they will be in a location and at times convenient to local residents. Relevant experts (e.g. in
21 dog behavior, landscape architecture, native habitats, child development) shall be on hand to
22 answer questions. Failing that, questions shall be gathered at the first meeting and relayed to
23 experts so that answers can be provided at the follow-up meeting. Childcare shall be
24 provided. Community input requires public notification and opportunities for input for users
25 and neighbors, RPD and relevant civic associations.

1 (c) Based on input from the community process, RPD and the Dog Advisory Committee
2 will decide on a course of action. If RPD and the Dog Advisory Committee cannot reach
3 consensus, the matter will go before the Board of Supervisors for a hearing and
4 determination.

5 (d) By December 1, 2002, the Recreation and Park Department shall provide a report for
6 the Dog Advisory Committee detailing the availability of funding for off-leash spaces, related
7 amenities, staff, educational materials, and other related items so that the Dog Advisory
8 Committee can determine which projects can be funded in the next fiscal year.

9 (e) The Recreation and Park Department shall not implement any policy related to off-
10 leash or on-leash activities as specified in this ordinance without first obtaining comment and
11 review from the Dog Advisory Committee.

12 SEC. 5A.16 5A.15 *MODIFICATION OR ELIMINATION OF VOICE-CONTROL AREAS.* If
13 the Recreation and Park Department concludes, after evaluation by the Advisory Committee, relevant
14 park groups and the Department, that a Voice-Control Area is not functioning appropriately, the
15 Department shall develop and implement potential solutions, with input from the Dog Advisory
16 Committee and members of the community. If the Department cannot implement a satisfactory
17 solution, the Recreation and Park Department shall discontinue the Dog Play Area in question
18 matter will be brought before the Neighborhood Services & Recreation Committee of the
19 Board of Supervisors for a hearing and determination.

20 SEC. 5A.17 5A.16 *FUNDING.* Prior to establishing a Dog Play Area, the Recreation
21 and Park Department, the Advisory Committee and/or the Community Partners shall identify
22 adequate funding for the project. The Recreation and Park Department has the primary
23 responsibility for providing the resources necessary for the establishment, maintenance and
24 management of basic Dog Play Voice-Control Areas. The Recreation and Park Department shall
25 work with Dog Play Area Community Partners community and park groups, the Dog Advisory

1 Committee and other governmental agencies to identify funding available through additional City
2 monies, grants, private and corporate funding, and agency partnerships, and pro-bono
3 contributions of goods and services (such as advertising space or landscaping supplies).

4 In addition to basic amenities and maintenance, Items that require funding shall include,
5 but not be limited to:

6 (a) Park-use surveys and facilitated meetings;

7 (b) Elements of public education (see Section 5A.18);

8 (c) Additional or upgraded amenities.

9 SEC. 5A.18 5A.17 PROFESSIONAL DOG WALKERS. The Recreation and Park
10 Department shall require all professional dog walkers utilizing park property to obtain a Recreation
11 and Park Department Permit and an Animal Care and Control agreement. Dog walkers must have a
12 maximum 8-foot leash in their possession for each dog being walked. Animal Care and Control
13 recommends that professional dog walkers not have more than six dogs in their control at any time. No
14 person may have more than six dogs off-leash at the same time in a Dog Play Voice-Control Area.
15 Professional Dog Walkers may use Dog Play Areas between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00
16 p.m. The Recreation and Park Department shall adopt a sliding scale fee schedule for Professional
17 Dog Walkers so that this Article does not unduly impact their livelihood. Funds raised by the
18 issuance of permits shall go to establishment and maintenance of off-leash areas and to city-
19 sponsored programs for animal welfare, education and training. These funds shall not be
20 placed in the general fund.

21 SEC. 5A.19 5A.18 PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION. The Recreation and
22 Park Department shall provide outreach information concerning this Ordinance by producing signage
23 and brochures that shall be distributed through a number of means, including veterinary offices, the
24 SFSPCA, pet stores, community groups (such as SFDOG, "Best Friends" and "Friends of"
25 groups) and Recreation and Park Department facilities as well as the Recreation and Park

1 Department's WEB page, which has links to other support organizations. All Recreation and Park
2 Department facilities that are staffed shall provide information to the public on the closest available
3 official Dog Play Voice-Control Area. In addition, RPD, along with the Dog Advisory
4 Committee will develop an on-going public education campaign around "petiquette," tolerance
5 and other topics essential to successful sharing of our urban parks. To reach the largest
6 number of people possible, the public education effort shall be multi-pronged, including
7 different types of media and combining outreach with readily available information for those
8 who are seeking it.

9

10 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
11 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

12

12 By: _____
13 Virginia Dario Elizondo
14 Deputy City Attorney

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25