

1 [Policy Governing Dogs in City Parks.]

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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 **describing the funding for Dog Play Voice-Control Areas; establishing a procedure for**
13 **handling complaints regarding Dog Play Voice-Control Areas; and setting rules for the**
14 **use of Dog Play Voice-Control Areas by professional dog walkers.**

15 Note: ~~All sections are new.~~

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

17 Section 1. The San Francisco Park Code is hereby amended by adding Article 5A to
18 read as follows:

19 Article 5A ~~DOG PLAY~~ VOICE-CONTROL AREAS

20 SEC. 5A.01 PURPOSE.

21 Dogs on leash are permitted in all areas of parks with the exception of athletic fields,
22 tennis, basketball and volleyball courts, Sensitive Habitat Areas from which humans have also
23 been barred, either seasonally or permanently, and those areas identified in Section 5.02 of
24 the Park Code, which include children’s play areas, buildings, the Zoological Gardens and the
25 Arboretum, Japanese Tea Garden and Conservatory Valley in Golden Gate Park. ~~Pursuant to~~

1 Section 41.12 of the San Francisco Health Code, dogs are permitted off-leash only in those
2 areas of parks that have been designated by the Recreation and Park Commission as animal
3 exercise areas. The purpose of this section is to provide rules and guidelines to allow the
4 Recreation and Park Department to support the on-going off-leash use of parks by dogs and
5 their guardians. The Department must also ensure that all citizens can share our scarce
6 urban parks and open spaces without adversely affecting one another or the natural
7 environment.

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

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

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

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

19 Single Use: A designated, enclosed or defined park space for off-leash recreation only

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

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

1 (d) Dog Advisory Committee shall mean the committee formed by the General
2 Manager of the Recreation and Park Department to create, monitor, and mediate the
3 community process surrounding Dog Play Voice-Control Areas.

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

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

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

14 (h) Sensitive Habitat Area shall mean those areas within Significant Natural
15 Resource Areas that support or are likely to support locally important, rare, threatened or
16 endangered species. ~~Of the approximately 500 acres of Natural Areas available for~~
17 ~~recreational use, approximately 20% would be considered Sensitive Habitat Areas. Sensitive~~
18 ~~Habitat Areas include sensitive wildlife areas such as breeding habitat for birds, sensitive~~
19 ~~remnant native plant communities such as wetlands, sensitive plant populations such as~~
20 ~~locally rare wildflower species, high erosion prone areas, active restoration areas (temporary~~
21 ~~designation only).~~ The Recreation and Park Department shall conduct a scientific study and a
22 thorough neighborhood public process in order to more clearly designate and define these
23 areas, ~~subject to public review and comment.~~

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

4 (a) Location.

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

13 (2) ~~Dog-Play~~ Voice-Control Areas should be neighborhood friendly and, at a
14 minimum, shall be located where they will ~~not adversely impact the surrounding neighborhood~~
15 ~~and open space by causing ongoing conflicts due to overcrowding, detriment to the~~
16 ~~surrounding environment due to digging or trampling, displacement of established recreational~~
17 ~~activities, including passive recreation, or interference with the City's goal of allowing dogs~~
18 ~~and owners to exercise and socialize in a safe area~~ best address the needs and concerns of
19 the neighborhood and of park users.

20 (3) Although some noise is expected and will not preclude the establishment of a
21 ~~Dog-Play~~ Voice-Control Area, in siting ~~Dog-Play~~ Voice-Control Areas the Recreation and Park
22 Department shall take into account the distance from residences so that noise and activity
23 levels are no more disruptive to neighbors than typical park uses. If the VCA is to be of the
24 Single Use variety, the Department shall also consider whether the site is in a well drained
25 area of the park, and whether the Department has the financial resources to install the

1 infrastructure necessary for the Dog Play Voice-Control Area and to maintain said area. The
2 Department must ensure that all Dog Play Voice-Control Areas meet applicable disability
3 access laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act
4 and the requirements of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

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

10 (c) Signage, Boundaries and Barriers.

11 The Recreation and Park Department shall ensure that all Dog Play Voice-Control
12 Areas have adequate signage, informing dog owners/guardians of the location, rules and
13 responsibilities of the off-leash area and informing park users of the presence of off-leash
14 dogs. ~~include adequate delineation, natural or man-made, to protect dogs from vehicles, steep~~
15 ~~cliffs, and other hazards, as well as to prevent conflicts with other park users. The boundaries~~
16 ~~of Dog Play Areas will be identified with physical enclosures. Although some fencing will be~~
17 ~~required to separate adjacent land uses, Barriers will not be necessary in Shared Use and~~
18 ~~Timed Use areas. Where community consensus calls for physical barriers to be part of the~~
19 ~~VCA design,~~ the Recreation and Park Department shall, to the extent possible, utilize non-
20 fence alternatives. The Department shall endeavor to create physical enclosures barriers that
21 are aesthetically pleasing and utilize landscape features such as shrubs and vines. The
22 Department shall determine the necessity, type, size and location of the physical enclosure
23 barriers on a case-by-case basis, with extensive input from the community and the Dog
24 Advisory Committee. In evaluating the type of enclosure, the Department shall consider the
25

1 adjacent site, size of the ~~Dog-Play~~ Voice-Control Area, existing active park uses, ~~proximity to~~
2 ~~Significant Natural Resource Areas~~, and historic use patterns.

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

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

- 22 (1) Bag dispensers.
23 (2) Signs.
24 (3) Bench(s).
25 (4) Surface material.

1 (5) Barriers (if necessary)

2 (6) Trash cans.

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

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

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

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

19 (a) ~~Regional Parks Larger than 35 Acres. The boundaries used shall be soft~~
20 ~~barriers such as language posts or field markers delineating approved areas, except when in~~
21 ~~close proximity to conflicting uses such as streams or Sensitive Habitat Areas. The overall~~
22 ~~park size and topography shall determine the size of the Dog Play Area. The Department will~~
23 ~~choose the surface materials based on the existing conditions, i.e. turf in meadows and dirt on~~
24 ~~trails. In addition, all park users must be able to access the facility without encountering off-~~
25 ~~leash dogs, dogs must not be able to directly access prohibited areas such as Sensitive~~

1 Habitat Areas, and the necessary signage must be installed to designate which areas are
2 open to off-leash use and which are not. The public must be able to use the Dog Play Area at
3 its discretion for other purposes. Finally, the Department may impose additional restrictions in
4 some accessible Natural Areas on a case-by-case basis such as requiring dogs to stay on-
5 trail, under voice control, or on-leash. Some areas may require seasonal restrictions.

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

21 (c) — Smaller Parks and Playgrounds Between 0 and 10 Acres. Dog Play Areas shall
22 have physical enclosures. The Recreation and Park Department shall use other measures to
23 the extent possible to screen the effects of the enclosures. These areas will be a minimum of
24 40,000 square feet. The Department shall endeavor to use surfaces other than turf, or shall
25 consider combinations of turf and more sustainable surfaces. For safety, Dog Play Areas

1 shall include double gates in at least two locations. Finally, the Department may impose
2 additional restrictions in some accessible Natural Areas on a case-by-case basis, such as
3 requiring dogs to stay on trail, under voice control, or on-leash. Some areas may require
4 seasonal restrictions. If the community cannot reach a reasonable compromise regarding a
5 Dog Play Area in a small park or playground, the Recreation and Park Department shall make
6 a recommendation to the Recreation and Park Commission for final approval.

7 (a) Shared-Use Areas

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

14 (b) Timed-Use Areas

15 Timed-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 during posted hours with responsible dog
17 caretakers who have their dogs under voice control, or that the area is reserved for off-leash
18 dog recreation during those hours. Designated hours for off-leash recreation shall be guided
19 by logical use patterns and may be adjusted for daylight savings.

20 (c) Single-Use Areas

21 Single-Use Areas shall be neighborhood friendly and located and designed so that they
22 will not compromise the intent of the single-use area to allow dogs and owners to exercise
23 and socialize safely and pleasantly. Single-use, fenced (or otherwise separated) areas shall
24 be made safe, attractive and comfortable for users both canine and human. Barriers shall be
25 maintained and proper gates installed [Section 5A.03(e)(7)], foxtails and other hazards

1 removed, surface options (including hardy turf) researched and implemented, and signage
2 installed to educate users regarding the rules and regulations of the space.

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

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

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

1 [following text moved from SEC. 5A.08] ~~Recreation and Park Department and~~
2 ~~community Partner Responsibilities.~~ Community partners (“Best Friend” groups, “Friends of”
3 groups, etc.), individual users and the Recreation and Park Department shall share the
4 responsibility for maintaining and monitoring ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Areas. The following are
5 general guidelines that the Department shall adhere to in deciding which tasks ~~will be~~
6 ~~performed by the Community Partner~~ can be reasonably expected of members of the
7 community and which will be performed by the Recreation and Park Department:

8 (a) The Recreation and Park Department shall:

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

10 (2) Maintain surrounding landscape.

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

12 (4) Maintain informational signs.

13 (5) Empty waste receptacles.

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

15 (7) Post hours of operation for ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Areas.

16 (8) Regulate hours of ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Areas to best serve maintenance needs.

17 (9) Provide cost estimates for new or renovated ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Areas.

18 (10) Process necessary regulatory permits.

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

20 (12) Monitor ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Area to determine general compliance and
21 effectiveness.

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

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

25 (15) Publish VCA rules and other educational materials to be distributed to community.

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

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

4 (1) Provide stewardship of Dog-Play Voice-Control Area to uphold policy standards,
5 ensure that users are courteous, responsible and fair, and foster a safe shared environment.

6 (2) Distribute Dog-Play Voice-Control Area rules and other educational materials to
7 park users.

8 (3) Serve as good role models.

9 (4) Ensure Dog-Play Voice-Control Area is kept free of animal feces.

10 (5) Alert Recreation and Park Department and Advisory Committee to maintenance
11 needs.

12 (6) Help establish priorities for repair and renovation.

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

14 (8) Raise funds to support additional amenities based on Dog-Play Voice-Control Area
15 needs. Such fundraising shall be administered by an appropriate 501(c)(3) charitable
16 organization.

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

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

1 (a) Your neighbors and the Recreation and Park Department appreciate responsible
2 dog ownership.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 [Text moved to 5A.06] ~~SEC. 5A.08 Recreation and Park Department and community~~
22 ~~Partner Responsibilities. Community Partners and the Recreation and Park Department shall~~
23 ~~share the responsibility for maintaining and monitoring Dog Play Areas. The following are~~
24 ~~general guidelines that the Department shall adhere to in deciding which tasks will be~~
25

1 performed by the Community Partner and which will be performed by the Recreation and Park
2 Department:

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

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

5 (2) Maintain surrounding landscape.

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

7 (4) Maintain informational signs.

8 (5) Empty waste receptacles.

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

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

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

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

13 (10) Process necessary regulatory permits.

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

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

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

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

18 Area design, location, or infrastructure.

19 (b) — The Community Partners shall:

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

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

22 (3) Serve as good role models.

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

24 (5) Alert Recreation and Park Department and Advisory Committee to maintenance

25 needs.

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

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

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

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

8 SEC. 5A.09, 5A.08 ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

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

22 (1) SFSPCA.

23 (2) SFDOG.

24 ~~(3) Coleman Advocates.~~

25 ~~(4) Audubon Society.~~

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

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

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

- 16 (1) SF Police Department
- 17 (2) SF Animal Care & Control
- 18 (3) Animal Welfare Commission

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

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

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

- 1 (1) ~~(2)~~ Help identify volunteer opportunities.
- 2 ~~(2)~~ (3) Organize educational and recreational events such as obedience classes, and
3 canine good citizen tests, programming for kids with dogs, etc.
- 4 ~~(3)~~ (4) Assist in developing and distributing educational information.
- 5 ~~(4)~~ (5) Organize collaborative events throughout the City such as vaccination and
6 licensing days.
- 7 ~~(5)~~ (6) Assist in the mediation of neighborhood park disputes related to ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-
8 Control Areas.
- 9 ~~(6)~~ (7) Recommend community guidelines.
- 10 ~~(7)~~ (8) Promote good community relations.
- 11 ~~(8)~~ (9) Solicit and identify funding for amenities and improvements not provided by the
12 Recreation and Park Department.
- 13 ~~(9)~~ (10) Assist in review and evaluation of ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Areas and
14 Community Partnerships.
- 15 ~~(10)~~ (11) Establish a formal complaint evaluation system and ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control
16 Area evaluation instrument.
- 17 ~~(11)~~ (12) Act as liaison between users, local residents, and relevant citizen
18 associations.
- 19 ~~(12)~~ Identify three Dog Play Area trail or meadow experiences (in regional parks).
- 20 (13) Draft language for ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Area signs.
- 21 (14) Report to the Recreation and Park Department Commission two or three times
22 per year to provide an update on ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Area issues.
- 23 ~~(15)~~ Present a recommendation to the Recreation and Park Department on timed use
24 of parks. The Department, with input from the Advisory Committee, shall prepare and deliver
25 a report to the Recreation and Park Commission no later than October, 2002 on timed use.

1 Make recommendations to RPD, the Supervisors Neighborhood Services & Parks Committee
2 and the Recreation & Parks Commission, as appropriate

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

5 (17) Meet every other month, unless deemed otherwise

6 (18) Conduct meetings in accordance with all City and State public meeting regulations

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

17 SEC. 5A.11 5A.10 EVALUATION OF DOG PLAY VOICE-CONTROL AREAS. The
18 Recreation and Park Department, in partnership with the Dog Advisory Committee, shall
19 conduct an evaluation of a each Dog Play Voice-Control Area one year after it is sited,
20 established, and/or significant renovation has been completed. Existing Dog Play Voice-
21 Control Areas shall be evaluated within one year of this Ordinance's effective date.
22 Thereafter, ~~the Department shall conduct~~ evaluations shall be conducted every three years,
23 unless ~~The Department should conduct evaluations in the interim when~~ conditions warrant
24 ~~reconsideration~~ interim evaluation. Dog Play Voice-Control Area evaluations shall be
25 conducted by a committee comprised of representatives from the Recreation and Park

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

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

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 chicken bones and other
25 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, etc)

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

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

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

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

20 SEC. ~~5A.15~~ 5A.14 PROPOSALS FOR NEW ~~DOG PLAY~~ VOICE CONTROL AREAS.
21 The Recreation and Park Department and the Dog Advisory Committee shall consider all
22 written requests from users, neighbors, and ~~Community Partners~~ community groups regarding
23 the establishment of new Dog Play Voice-Control Areas, and adding or repairing amenities at
24 existing Dog Play Voice-Control Areas. The Recreation and Park Department shall evaluate
25 the request and make a recommendation to the Advisory Committee within 60 days of

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

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

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

24 (c) Based on input from the community process, RPD and the Dog Advisory Committee
25 will decide on a course of action. If RPD and the Dog Advisory Committee cannot reach

1 consensus, the matter will go before the Neighborhood Services & Recreation Committee of
2 the Board of Supervisors for a hearing and determination.

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

12 SEC. ~~5A.17~~ 5A.16 FUNDING. ~~Prior to establishing a Dog Play Area, the Recreation~~
13 ~~and Park Department, the Advisory Committee and/or the Community Partners shall identify~~
14 ~~adequate funding for the project.~~ The Recreation and Park Department has the primary
15 responsibility for providing the resources necessary for the establishment, maintenance and
16 management of basic ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Areas. The Recreation and Park Department
17 shall work with ~~Dog Play Area Community Partners~~ community and park groups, the Dog
18 Advisory Committee and other governmental agencies to identify funding available through
19 additional City monies, grants, private and corporate funding, ~~and~~ agency partnerships, and
20 pro-bono contributions of goods and services (such as advertising space or landscaping
21 supplies).

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

24 (a) Park-use surveys and facilitated meetings

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

1 (c) Additional or upgraded amenities

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

14 SEC. ~~5A.19~~ 5A.18 PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION. The Recreation and
15 Park Department shall provide outreach information concerning this Ordinance by producing
16 signage and brochures that shall be distributed through a number of means, including
17 veterinary offices, the SFSPCA, pet stores, community groups (such as SFDOG, “Best
18 Friends” and “Friends of” groups) and Recreation and Park Department facilities as well as
19 the Recreation and Park Department’s WEB page, which has links to other support
20 organizations. All Recreation and Park Department facilities that are staffed shall provide
21 information to the public on the closest available official ~~Dog Play~~ Voice-Control Area. In
22 addition, RPD, along with the Dog Advisory Committee will develop an on-going public
23 education campaign around “petiquette,” tolerance and other topics essential to successful
24 sharing of our urban parks. To reach the largest number of people possible, the public
25

1 education effort shall be multi-pronged, including different types of media and combining
2 outreach with readily available information for those who are seeking it.

3

4 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
5 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

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6 By: _____
7 ATTORNEY'S NAME
7 Deputy City Attorney

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