Parks Department Recommendation:
Off-Leash Dog Access Program

Recommendation

A. Policy Guidelines for Off-Leash Dog Access Pilot Program
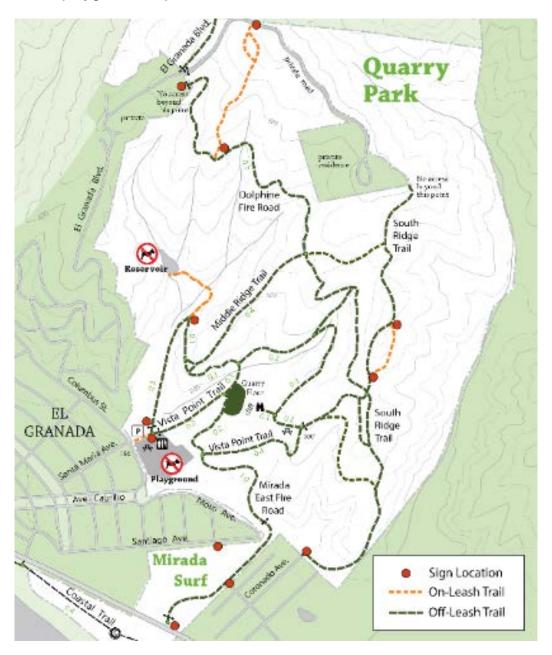
(1) Off-leash dogs must be under voice and sight control:
    a. Voice and sight control means the owner/handler must be in control of dog(s) at all times and must be able to recall and leash dog(s) at any time.
    b. Owner/handler must have a leash for each dog under owner/handler control.
    c. Dog must return immediately when called (maximum of 10-second return time).

(2) Dogs must remain on designated and signed trails, within view and earshot, and no more than 25 feet away from owner/handler.

(3) Dogs must be on-leash in developed areas (i.e. near traffic, parking lot, lawn or play field deck, picnic areas, etc.).

(4) No more than two dogs off-leash per owner/handler.

(5) Dogs are presumed to NOT be under control when they:
    a. Threaten, harass, chase, or otherwise display aggression toward any person, animals or wildlife;
    b. Display threatening behavior;
    c. Physically harm people directly or indirectly by their actions;
    d. Touch or jump on other park users who have not invited or engaged in interaction with the dog; or
    e. Do not return when called (maximum of 10-second return time).

(6) Owner/handler must have physical control of dog(s) when approaching or being approached by park users not also engaged in off-leash dog recreation.

B. Two Off-Leash Dog Access Pilot Locations: Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff

(1) Quarry Park: Off-Leash Dog Access Pilot Location #1

Proposal at Quarry Park (see map below)
- *On-leash dogs are allowed on all trails*
- *Off-leash dogs are allowed on designated multi-use trails*
- *To protect children and sensitive species and habitat, dogs are not allowed in the playground or pond.*

(2) Pillar Point Bluff: Off-Leash Pilot Location #2

Proposal at Pillar Point Bluff
- *Sections of trails in Pillar Point Bluff are open to dogs off leash and under voice and sight control of their handler(s). See map:*
    - *Jean Lauer Trail, post 3-15*
    - *Ross' Cove Trail, post 5-14*
    - *Between post 3 and 5*
- *To protect sensitive species and habitat, dogs are prohibited in all marsh areas, on all trails leading down to the beach, and on the entire beach.*

C. Criteria for Evaluation of the Off-Leash Dog Access Pilot Program

There was consensus among the work group members to approve the following evaluation criteria for the off-leash dog access pilot program.

Off-Leash Dog Access Pilot Project Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Methodology/Method for Tracking	Baseline	Frequency	Lead
Environmental Impacts				
Vegetation	Staff will survey trails before, during and after pilot period for presence of native and non-native vegetation and any species of concern within a buffer on either side of trails in pilot parks. Visual observations will be recorded in digital collector forms. Special survey will be done for any plants of concern.	Visual assessment pre-pilot.	Before pilot, and every 2 weeks during pilot.	Natural Resources
Wildlife	Staff will monitor change in presence, behavior, location, and timing of wildlife as recorded by the wildlife cameras and any other type of wildlife surveys needed. Any visual observation of dogs harassing wildlife will also be recorded.	Data collected before initiation of the pilot.	Ongoing monitoring before and during pilot.	Natural Resources
Water Quality	Number of unattended dog waste observed by staff, including measurement of number of bagged waste and unbagged waste, and if applicable, any other tracking requirements per the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Will be tracked by Ranger field forms and in digital collector form.	Visual assessment, including pre-pilot data observation.	Ongoing monitoring.	Natural Resources; Ranger staff
Visitor Interactions				
Visitor interactions	Staff will gather information regarding visitor interactions with dogs through field forms. Courtesy notices, incident reports, citations and public written comment will also be included.	Field forms collected before off-leash dog access pilot.	Ongoing monitoring.	Ranger Staff
Parks Resources				
Staff Workload	Number of staff time hours required to implement pilots, including evaluation criteria monitoring as well as interactions between rangers and dogs and dog owners. The number of ranger contacts will also inform this measurement.	Field forms collected before off-leash dog access.	Total will be reported at end of pilot.	Fiscal Staff; Ranger Staff
Signage and other infrastructure	Measured by cost of improvements and infrastructure required for dog access, including signage and additional waste stations, including initial costs and any ongoing costs such as maintenance.	Assume baseline of zero.	Total will be reported at end of pilot.	Fiscal Staff
Park Use				
Park visitor numbers	Measured by change in number of park visitors using existing visitor counters, comparing pre and during pilot numbers. Data will be collected by automated trail counters.	Compare count data from corresponding month for the previous year.	Ongoing monitoring before pilot and during pilot.	Visitor Services