



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Parks and Recreation



DOG PARK ESTABLISHMENT APPLICATION FORM

Upon completion, please mail to:
Department of Parks and Recreation
Office of the Director
ATTN: Dog Park Application
3149 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20010

LOCATION

Location Description: Virginia Avenue Park
Location Address: 11th St SE + Va Ave SE Ward: 6

SPONSOR GROUP/APPLICANT

Sponsor Group Name: Capitol Canines
Address: 951 14th Street SE
City: Washington State: DC Zip: 20003
Website: facebook: capitol canines
How long has this group been in existence? 6 months

REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION

Representative's Name: Sara Loveland
Representative's Address: 951 14th St SE Ward: 6
City: Washington State: DC Zip: 20003
Representative's Affiliation with Sponsor Group: POC
Are you a bona fide resident of DC? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Will you serve as primary point of contact? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If no, then name of primary point of contact _____
(Please see 732.1 of the enclosed Dog Park Regulations)

Home Number: _____ Mobile: 202.330.8745

Other: _____ Fax: 202.462.4906

Email Address: Sara Loveland@gmail.com

Which is the preferred mode of contact? email

CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

I have read the rules and regulations set forth by the Government of the District of Columbia for the establishment of dog parks. As representative of the above mentioned sponsor group, I agree to adhere to the rules and regulations published in 19 DCMR Chapter 7.

Furthermore, I certify that the statements made in this application to the District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation, including the supplements and attachments, are accurate and complete to the best of my understanding. I understand that any false, misleading, and/or inaccurate information may serve as the basis for the District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation to reject this application.

Sara Loveland
Representative's Name

4-1-10
Date

Sara Loveland
Representative's Signature

4-1-10
Date

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The following supplemental information has been included and should be used in evaluating the application.

☒ Formal Proposal

☒ Letters of Support

☒ Petition

For Official Use Only

Date Received: _____ ☐ Approved ☐ Rejected

DPARC Representative

Proposal for Dog Park at Virginia Avenue Park

I. Overview

This proposal is submitted by Capitol Canines, a neighborhood organization dedicated to establishing a dog park and natural landscaping that both enhance the appearance and increase the use of Virginia Avenue Park. Capitol Canines (CC) proposes the establishment of a legal dog park at Virginia Avenue Park (VAP). This park is ideally situated to accommodate a dog park on its most undesirable land, bordering a highway overpass and a Department of Transportation equipment storage yard. Its underutilized space has the capacity to accommodate the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) requirements for a dog park, while enhancing the surrounding park areas, supporting the existing park use by community gardeners and accommodating potential future playground use in the NW corner of the park.

The proposed dog park is approximately 10,000 square feet, and the proposed site plan includes an additional approximate 5,000 square feet of visual screening landscaping and seating areas outside of the dog park. The conceptual site design approaches the park holistically, with proposed landscaping elements complementing and continuing existing park improvements.

II. Description of Proposed Dog Park

Location

Virginia Avenue Park is located at 901 Virginia Avenue SE, bordered on the West by 9th St SE, on the East by 11th St SE, on the South by Potomac Avenue SE, on the North by Interstate 295. The immediate neighborhood is predominantly two story commercial structures, with the exception of a row of attached single-family homes in the 900 block of Potomac Avenue SE, adjacent to the park. Notable among the immediate commercial neighbors of the park are: Dogma Day Care and the Washington DC Spay and Neuter Clinic.

Surrounding Neighborhood

The wider neighborhood south of Pennsylvania Avenue in Ward 6 consists of mostly single-family attached rowhouses, with the areas around Eastern Market and Potomac Avenue metro stops providing retail cores for the community. Within ½ mile, there are several businesses serving pets and

their owners, including but not limited to: Capitol Hill Veterinary Clinic, Chateau Animaux, and Pawticulars. Pets are a part of the neighborhood's families, and the local business community's bottom line.

III. Description of Need

Capitol Hill is a garden community, often characterized as a nice place to have a verdant retreat in the city, a dog, a family. Private outdoor space for all these uses is limited in small yards. Dogs need larger areas for exercise and social play time to be good urban companions. Dog parks serve as gathering places where community members meet and talk about their neighborhood and their pets. Because of the lack of official dog parks, dog owners meet at school playgrounds, or parks with no fences. A fenced dog park will allow residents to safely interact with their neighbors and exercise with their dogs, fostering a greater sense of community.

IV. Community Support

Several local businesses and community groups have written letters of support endorsing the creation of the dog park, which are included in Appendix 1. Capitol Canines has also received support from elected officials, including the unanimous support of ANC 6B, as indicated in attachments.

Capitol Canines has collected over 360 signatures in support of creation of a dog park at Virginia Ave Park. (See Appendix 2) Almost all of these signatures are from residents living within 1 mile of the park.

V. Site Specifications

Environmental Guidelines

- Slope

The slope of the proposed dog park is mild northwest to southeast. This portion of the park slopes away from both the existing community garden and the proposed playground site. While no portion of the slope exceeds DPR standards, rain gardens will be implemented to retain and filter water at key points in the slope.

- Surface Waters

There are no surface waters within 50 feet of the proposed site.

- Water supply

Ideally, the DPR supplied water source would include a spigot to be used for dogs, as well as plant maintenance during stabilization and periods of drought, and also a drinking fountain for humans.

- Surface Type

Within the dog park itself, Department of Parks and Recreation approved decomposed granite of mixed aggregate, surrounded by shrubbery and planting beds covered with wood chips will be used. At the perimeter, outside the fence, rain gardens and bioswales will be installed to effectively trap, filter and slow the flow of water away from the site. The goal of the site design is to manage all stormwater in a 24 hour, one inch storm event, on site.

Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990

The main entrance to the dog park from Potomac Ave SE will be built to comply with all ADA accessibility standards.

Suitability of Under-Utilized Land

The site is not designated as a playground, children's play area, or athletic field. It is also not a sensitive habitat or wildlife area. This portion of the park contains almost exclusively turf grass, and is little used, likely because of its proximity to the highway and overpass, as well as a lack of cohesive pedestrian linkage with the surrounding neighborhoods.

Design Standards

- Size

The proposed dog park is an area of 10,000 square feet, with a maximum capacity of 22 dogs in accordance with DPR standards of 450 sq ft per dog.

- Fencing

The dog park will make use of the existing 12 ft high Department of Transportation fencing that borders the North and West perimeter of the park. Attractive 5 foot high fencing will comprise the West and South fences.

- Entrance Gate

Person and pet access gate shall be a double gate with a 16 square foot buffer area.

- Ground Cover

The dog park will use landscaping with large wood chips or rocks along the perimeter fence, a buffer of existing turf grass, a central rain

garden and tree circle to manage an interior topographical depression, and predominantly decomposed granite of no more than 1/4 inch in size, at a depth of 6 inches, per DOR design standards.

- **Additional Amenities**

Priority in site design will be to create attractive natural buffers that separate the dog park from the other park amenities, while managing stormwater on site. Several large shade trees are planned in the center of the dog park, as well as throughout the path area immediately to the south of the perimeter fence. 5 rain gardens at the exterior perimeter of the fence will hold and filter water while providing repatriation of native plantscaping.

VI. Implementation and Stewardship

Implementation

With the assistance of DC Greenworks (DCG) and in-kind support from Ward 6 landscape design and development professionals, Capitol Canines will embark on a capital campaign to raise approximately \$20,000 to fund installation of native bayscaping, rain gardens, at least three large shade trees, pavers, and park furniture. CC proposes to install the new site features immediately upon completion of DPR fencing and water access. CC will leverage community volunteer labor and potentially apply for assistance from the Mayor's Green Summer Job Corps, under DCG management.

Stewardship

Capitol Canines will provide daily oversight of activities and maintenance at Virginia Avenue Dog Park. CC has more than 30 members. Many long time neighborhood residents helped form this group. The group is actively seeking membership growth in the Ward 6, primarily among neighbors south of Pennsylvania and dog owners who formerly used Tyler Field as an exercise yard. These members commit to daily site sweeps for trash and maintaining the new landscape, especially in the early planting and establishment phases. On an ongoing basis, Capitol Canines members will promote responsible dog park usage through notices on the community bulletin board at the entrance and personal interaction with park users, as well as host periodic park cleanup days. Capitol Canines is currently seeking 501 (c) 3 status.

Founding members include:

- Vivian Ault
- Sarah Corteau

- Judith Jones
- Melanie Kaplan
- Nancy Kronstadt
- Sara Loveland (Liaison to DPR)
- Dave Mosick
- Steve O'Donnell
- Steve Sinclair
- Jess Zimbabwe (On-line Group Manager)

Project Management and Fundraising

Please find attached letter of support from DC Greenworks (DCG). DC Greenworks is a 501(c)3 non-profit whose mission is to promote urban social revitalization through environmental restoration. DCG sees the vital role that public lands play in encouraging community cohesiveness and supports the redevelopment of this underused piece of land. DCG will accept tax deductible contributions from supporters of Virginia Ave Dog Park, which will be directly allocated to fund project implementation and purchase of plants, and materials. DC Greenworks will provide site design support and facilitate volunteer events to involve community members in the installation of park features and leverage supporters' donations.

VII. Appendices

1. Letters of Support
2. Signed Petitions
3. Photographs of Current Site Conditions
4. Draft Conceptual Designs for Permanent Dog Park