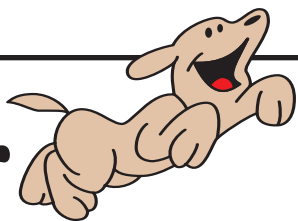


S.W. City Dog Park

in Willmore Park



Next Membership Period

runs from Sept 1, 2011 - May 31, 2012

Dues will be pro-rated. See article below!

Summer 2011

Letter from the President

The Southwest City Dog Park is up and going. What a strange spring, starting with daily downpours and now record heat. There are several questions that come up annually about volunteering and functions in the park.

The sprinkler system is currently running three days a week (Sunday, Tuesday and Friday) for twenty minutes per zone.

The drain is a French drain that runs about 12-15 feet from the drain inside the watering area toward the soccer field side of the park. The drain was put in by the city when the water station was put in. The drainage was not directed toward River Des Peres because the land on that side of the fence is governed by MSD and they are under the scrutiny of the EPA. Also if the area at the end of the French drain is saturated, water will not flow away from the station area.

Historically, pools have been provided by the members as donations. Remember, not all members are excited about the pools due to the constant emptying of them which keeps areas of the park soggy. Last year the pools were located at the back end of the park. This did keep the area around the water station drier. This year we attached hoses to the fence leading to both ends of the large dog park. We are asking people who provide the pools to be responsible for alternating the sites from front to back as the ground becomes saturated.

Maintenance at the park is ongoing. We still need someone or sometwo to be in charge of landscaping for the spring shutdown. This includes obtaining at least two bids, getting volunteers to check and overseed as needed, gate maintenance, spring opening cleanup, and getting the straw in the winter. If you are not interested in being on the committee, there are still things you can do: monitor the fencing for holes and make sure that the posts and poles for the fence are in alignment, maintain benches, fill the plastic bag holders. If nothing else, pull a weed!

We are also trying to organize our bylaws and rules so we are following the City Dog Park Ordinance, the bylaws of the SNA, and rules to remain nonprofit. If you are interested in volunteering, please email me at president@swcitydogpark.org.

Finally, I have participated on a committee or board almost since the opening of the park. My dogs are getting old and suffering the side effects of old age such as cataracts. They no longer enjoy their time at the dog park and participating in social interactions with other dogs. Due to this I will not be renewing my membership to the park in September and the position of the president will be open. I have enjoyed my time and involvement with the park and will miss the people and social time as well.

— Annette (Zoey and Auggie)
President, Southwest City Dog Park
president@swcitydogpark.org

Renewal schedule



The Dog Park will transition in 2012 to a membership schedule that aligns with our spring closing. To prepare for the transition, renewal prices in 2011 will be reduced and cover fewer months.

"Memberships traditionally have been due for renewal in September because, in 2006, that was the month we were ready to open the gate at the new dog park," said Annette Cantieri, board president. "With almost five years of experience behind us, we know now it makes sense to line up our membership cycle with our landscaping schedule. New grass means new year."

After this transition period, the dog park calendar will run from June 1 to May 31 with the expectation that the park will close to grow grass for six to eight weeks in April and May.

"If Mother Nature cooperates, we will absolutely open earlier than June 1," Cantieri said. "We will not be closed more days than any other spring. We are just adjusting our schedule to make it clearer to members that they should expect a series of weeks that we close to meet the city parks' requirement that we keep the space green."

Members will receive notices to renew asking for payment from September 1, 2011, to May 31, 2012.

In spring 2012, the Dog Park will begin its 2013 membership cycle, and members will pay the full amount. The fee for additional dogs also will be restored.

Landscaping Report

This is the type of watering station to be installed in September. Two will be in the large dog park, and one in the small dog park.



approximate location of 3 water fountains to be installed



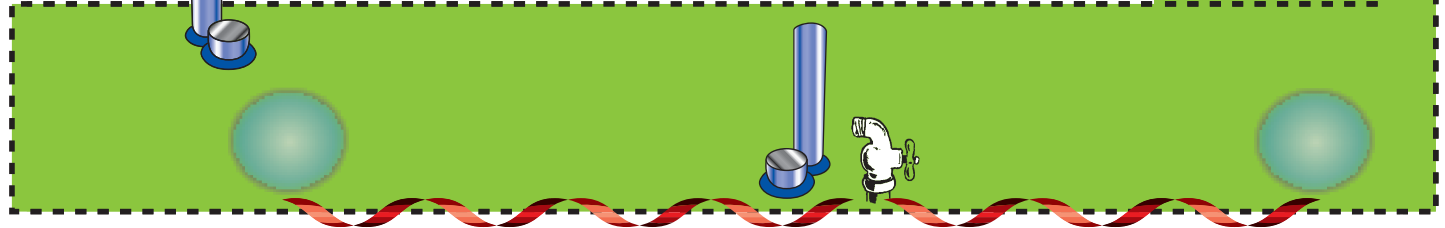
please alternate location of doggie pools



hose attached to fence



existing faucet



Pools & Hoses



There are hoses attached to the fence on both sides of the existing faucet. Please alternate the location of any member-provided doggie pools so that each area has a chance to dry out.

Holy Moly, Batman!



Our resident mole is hard at work. Watch out for its holes! There are several located between the first big tree in the large-dog area and the fence on the River Des Peres side. The above photo shows some holes in our dog park.

Info & photo below from the Missouri Department of Conservation

The Front End



The tissue of the inside of a nose is entirely blanketed with tiny receptor sites. Human noses have about six million of these sensory receptor sites. Sheepdog noses have over two hundred million. Beagle noses have over three hundred million.

We might notice if our coffee has been sweetened with a teaspoon of sugar; theoretically, a dog can detect a teaspoon of sugar diluted in a million gallons of water (two Olympic-sized pool fulls).

— *Inside of a Dog*
by Alexandra Horowitz

Description: Chipmunk-sized, though not a rodent; has palmlike, short front feet that are held over the head with palms facing outward. The head looks nearly featureless except for the flexible, piglike snout. Although the mole's eyes are weak, its senses of hearing, touch and smell are acute. The velvety fur is characteristically slate gray but often appears silvery on freshly groomed moles and sooty black on juveniles. The tail is nearly naked and is highly sensitive to touch.



Foods: Grubs and earthworms constitute the bulk of their diet. They also prey on other soil-dwelling creatures such as beetles, spiders, centipedes, ant pupae and cutworms. In fact, a mole can harvest more than 140 grubs and cutworms daily (many of which are destructive to your backyard plants). Moles can eat half their body weight a day!

Human value: Though moles are routinely disliked for disfiguring lawns and inadvertently damaging plant roots, their tunneling also aerates and mixes soil, permitting air and moisture to penetrate deeper. They also eat many destructive insects such as cutworms and Japanese beetle larvae.

Ecosystem value: Their digging and tunneling makes soils healthier, and their feeding on insects helps keep their populations in check. Though living underground offers some protection, moles still fall prey to snakes, hawks, owls, skunks, coyotes and foxes.

Alternate Use Area

For Small and Special Needs Dogs

Other dog park members may use this area when not in use by these dogs, for training (non-professional) or to separate dogs. However, small and special needs dogs take priority!

If your dog...

- has sight, hearing, or ambulatory challenges...
- is being harassed by larger dogs who seem to think he/she is a squeaky toy, squirrel, or rabbit...
- is very timid...

he/she may feel more comfortable and free to run around in the Special Needs/Alternate Use/Small Dog Area.

If you notice people with large dogs constantly correcting and pulling their pets away from yours, please be kind to your dog and use the small section of the park. **Don't wait for an accident to happen!**

We need your input

Now that more dog watering stations are in the offing (including one in the Special Needs Area), what future improvements would you like to see in the dog park? Vote for your favorite, or add your own idea!

Some possibilities...

- picnic table(s)
- agility equipment
- table with umbrella and chairs in the Special Needs/Alternate Use/Small Dog area
- visit from dog behavior specialist
- first aid kit / dog CPR training



We'd especially like to hear ideas on how to make the Special Needs Area more enticing to humans, and more interesting for the dogs. Please send your wishlist to daisyspringer@att.net.

Secretary's Corner

Well, the dog park has finally reopened. I thought we were going to have to take a boat to get to it, but my kids are good swimmers and we made it.

We will be sending all newsletters and notifications through the secretary's email account as attached .pdf files. This is the most universally used format. I would like to urge everyone who has a computer to do several things.

1 Download Adobe Reader.

This will allow you to open the .pdf files. It can be downloaded for free from their web site at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>. I have stayed away from AdobeX. I think Adobe 9 is just fine. Most computers come with it already installed.

2 Add my email address to your address book – secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com. This sometimes helps if your server is rejecting the message as spam.

3 Check your spam/junk folders for dog park updates.

4 Join the SWCityDogPark Yahoo Group. See the Spring issue for directions.



Dog Park Member Statistics

The most common dog name at the park is Lucy.

Here are the top pup names:

Lucy	16
Bella, Charlie, Max	14 each
Jack	13
Buddy	12
Sophie	11
Molly	10
Stella, Murphy, Daisy	9 each
Riley, Oliver	8 each

Just remember, pet parents – when you call your pup don't be surprised if you get multiple responses.

448 families with 634 dogs belong to the park.

St. Louis City residents	388
St. Louis County residents	57
Arnold residents	2
Festus residents	1



See you at the park.

— Joan (Rusty and Casey)

Meet...



Posh is focused on The Ball.

Posh is a two-year-old lab mix with endless energy! Posh and owner, Becky, have been together since September.

Her favorite game: ball! And Posh has the skill, speed and focus to retrieve it first (most of the time, anyway!). Throw a ball up high, and she gives a quick athletic twirl in order to find where it will bounce.

Say hello to Posh and Becky at the Dog Park!

Design a dream dogpark contest



Rover Reporter

**grate plasez
to kool awf!**



Mr. Wizard's Frozen Custard

2101 S. Big Bend Blvd.

\$1.10 for a dawgie sunduh!



the tubba waddah at the park



**Hurry! Deadline for entries is
June 21, 2011 at 11:59:59 a.m. ET**

from Beneful's Contest Overview...

Write a short essay (250 words or less) that tells us what you would do if you had \$500,000 to create a dream dog park, then add a picture of you and your buddy that shows how life is better together. If you're selected as a finalist, you'll be asked to create an entry video to accompany your essay and photo.

The winner will inspire the \$500,000 makeover of a dog park in their area, and will also receive \$10,000 and a year's supply of Beneful® brand Dry Dog Food.

Enter online at
www.wagworld.com/DreamDogPark/

Meet...

We are the Lange kids. I am Rusty, a Golden Retriever, and my sister is Casey, another Golden Retriever. (I'm the handsome blonde on the left.) Let me tell you something about us.



Rusty & Casey

My Aunt Lorraine found me dumped on the Meramec River by my first family. I was a very lovable puppy. I don't know why they didn't want me. My Aunt Lorraine knew some people that needed a loving dog since one of their dogs had passed over "Rainbow Bridge." My new Mom and Dad (Joan and Ray) took me home and I even had a brother (Kelly the Collie). It was a great life. I was in my "forever home." That was 10 years ago.

Kelly was old and 3 years later he crossed over "Rainbow Bridge." Then my troubles began. Mom and Dad knew that I missed Kelly so they went to Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue and brought home my sister. She was Abbey in her previous life. Abbey's first Mom became allergic to dogs so they couldn't keep her. My Mom and Dad changed her name to Casey. They should have named her "devil dog." She will not let me have any toys. She takes everything

away from me. She wakes me up when I'm sleeping. She pulls me by the collar. She jumps on me and knocks me down. She is a terror. I wouldn't have it any other way. I LOVE HER! I know she loves me too because she sleeps next to me all of the time.

A few years ago we joined the SW City Dog Park. My Mom is the secretary. It's a great place. I get all of my sniffs and my sister gets to chase the ball. What else would you expect from a retriever? I love the pools in the summer. I like to lie down in them and then go roll in the dirt. It's so much fun. I have a thick coat and it gets all muddy and takes a long time to dry, but I am still handsome!

Now you know something about my sister and me. Let's hear something about the rest of our friends. Arf, arf. That means, "See you at the park."