



# STAFF REPORT

## Agenda Item: 9

**Report To:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**Meeting Date:** April 6, 2020

**Staff Contact:** Jennifer Budge, CPRP, Parks and Recreation Director

**Agenda Title:** For Discussion Only: Discussion only regarding dog use policies in parks.

**Staff Summary:** This item, will continue the discussion and gather feedback from the Commission and the public regarding potential direction regarding dog use policies within the City's park system. Discussion may include existing policies (i.e. on-leash vs off-leash; dogs allowed vs dogs not allowed), the applicable Carson City Municipal Code (CCMC) provisions for the Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department, as well as rules and regulations from other cooperating agencies.

**Agenda Action:** Other/ Presentation

**Time Requested:** 30 minutes

### **Proposed Motion**

N/A

### **Board's Strategic Goal**

Quality of Life

### **Previous Action**

N/A

### **Background/Issues & Analysis**

This item is a continuation from the joint meeting with the Open Space Advisory Committee in December 2020 regarding dog related policies within the City's park system. Copies of the informational materials previously presented by the Park Rangers, including the Dog Friendly Parks Map, and Powerpoint Presentation are provided as attachments for reference. Applicable codes from Carson City and other jurisdictions within the region are included within those materials. Due to the challenges with inconsistent signage, locations and regulations throughout the parks system, more consistent policies are desired by staff for transparency with the public. The purpose of this item is to obtain feedback from the Parks and Recreation Commission on potential policies to consider within Carson City Parks. The discussion will continue at the joint meeting with the Open Space Advisory Committee in June 2020, with potential recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for future consideration.

### **Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation**

CCMC provisions related to dogs:

13.02.090 - *Dogs in park.*

13.02.120 - *Animals.*

13.02.140 - *Flora and fauna.*

7.13.080 - *Responsibilities of owner: Duty to restrain; duty to provide food and water; duty to dispose of animal's solid waste; prohibition against causing offensive conditions; duty to arrange for medical care and report results that are positive for the rabies virus.*

# DOG USE IN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

PRESENTED BY PARK RANGERS JOHN  
COSTELLO AND TYLER KERVER



# ADJACENT AGENCY'S LAWS

## United States Forest Service

### Title 36: Parks, Forests, and Public Property

- §261.8 *Fish and wildlife.*
- The following are prohibited to the extent Federal or State law is violated:
  - (d) Possessing a dog not on a leash or otherwise confined.

### §261.16 *Developed recreation sites.*

- The following are prohibited:
  - (j) Bringing in or possessing an animal, other than a service animal, unless it is crated, caged, or upon a leash not longer than six feet, or otherwise under physical restrictive control.
  - (k) Bringing in or possessing in a swimming area an animal, other than a service animal.
  - (l) Bringing in or possessing a saddle, pack, or draft animal except as authorized by posted instructions.

## Bureau of Land Management

- BLM does not have leash requirements. Similar to the USFS, BLM advises to check with the local office in which you are recreating for leash policy. BLM encourages hikers with dogs to yield to all other trail users and keep dogs under control.

## DOUGLAS COUNTY

- The county has different regulations for different locations.
- In campgrounds, dogs must be leashed at all time.
- Douglas recently opened a new fenced-in dog park called Johnson Lane Park in July 2020.
- Douglas has recently discussed identifying and developing additional designated areas for dog owners and their pets, whether on or off leash



# WASHOE COUNTY

- Pets must be kept on leash at all time in most Washoe County parks
- There are two areas within Washoe County parks that allow off-leash use: The Multi-Use Pasture located within Rancho San Rafael Regional Park and the Link Piazza Dog Park
- Pets are not permitted at Bowers Mansion Regional Park
- The Wilbur D. May Arboretum, located within Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, prohibits pets
- Dogs are permitted part of the year on a leash at Silver Lake and Swan Lake Nature Study Area



# SPARKS

- Sparks has specific regulations for different areas within their jurisdiction. Sparks has areas designated for off leash, otherwise dogs are on leash and it is expected that owners will be picking up dog feces.



# RENO

- Owners must remain within the fenced area in view of their dog and maintain verbal control over their dog at all times
- Owners are responsible for picking up dog waste and disposing of it properly.
- Dogs must be removed from the park at the first sign of aggression.
- Female dogs in heat are prohibited from entering the park.
- Dog owners must have a leash at all times.
- Dogs must be on the leash when entering and before exiting the gated area.
- Keep small children and infants under close supervision.
- Owners must prevent their dogs from digging holes.
- All dogs must have a current license.



## INCLINE

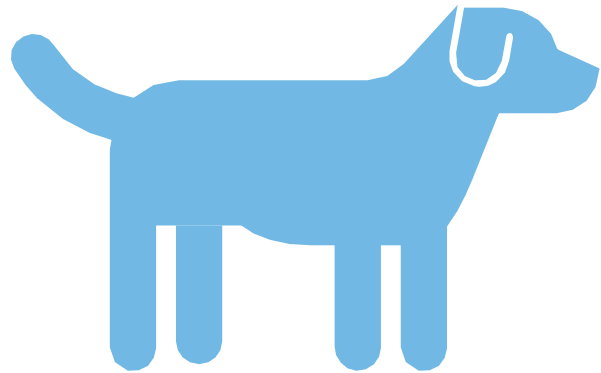
- As of August 1st, 2020, Incline Village has issued a mandatory “no dogs” policy on all of their beach properties, with the exception of Ski Beach (October-April).
- All other outdoor recreation locations are designated for specific sports.
- Village Green and Aspen Grove Open Space allowed on or off leash.





**CARSON CITY  
PET FRIENDLY  
PARKS**





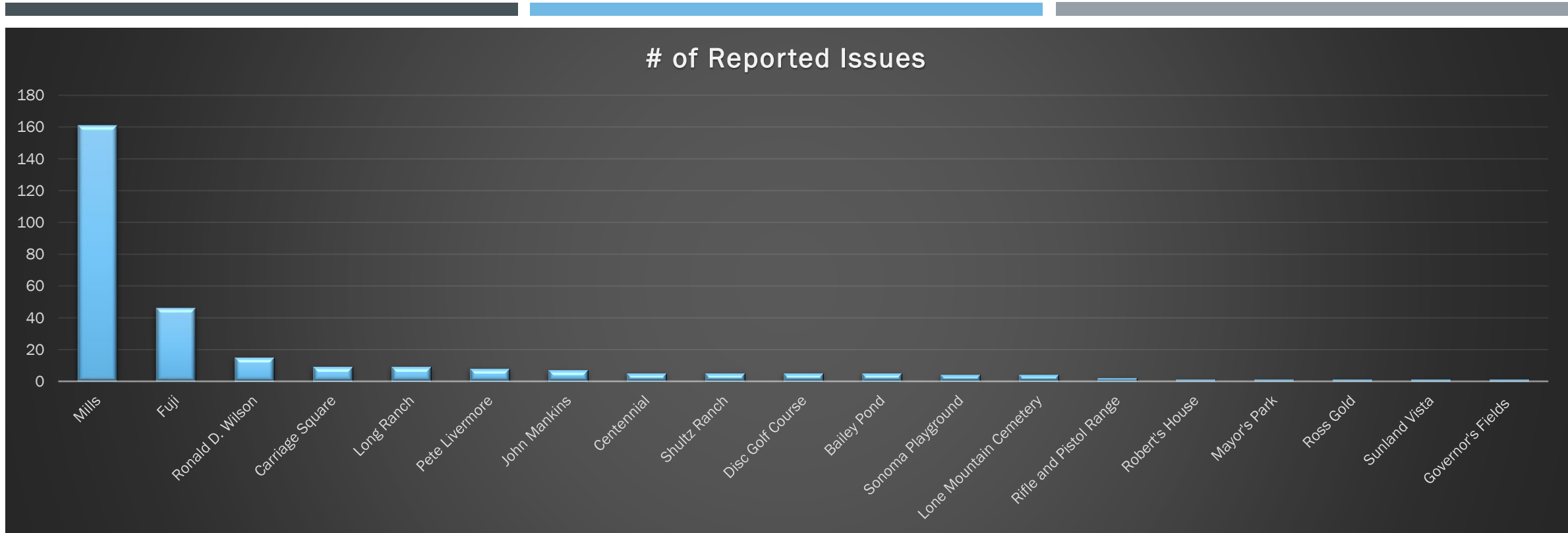
## PET FRIENDLY PARKS OVERVIEW

- Dogs are prohibited in Carson City parks unless otherwise stated
- Carson City has 15 city parks that allow dogs
  - 6 of them require dogs to be on leash at all times
- Carson City has two dog-specific parks and one planned
  - Fuji Dog Park
  - Sonoma Park
  - Lompa Ranch East Development (Planned)
- Parks that don't allow dogs often lack any CCMC and don't have adequate signage
  - Creates challenges for users and Park Rangers

## CARSON CITY CODES

- 13.02.090 - *Dogs in park.*
- 13.02.120 - *Animals.*
- 13.02.140 - *Flora and fauna.*
- 7.13.080 - *Responsibilities of owner: Duty to restrain; duty to provide food and water; duty to dispose of animal's solid waste; prohibition against causing offensive conditions; duty to arrange for medical care and report results that are positive for the rabies virus.*





## **CARSON CITY PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE DOG COMPLIANCE**

Compiled data relating to dog contacts between dog owners and the Park Rangers in Carson City Parks

March 25, 2019 – November 10, 2020



# NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY

## CARSON CITY AGREEMENT

- Carson City contracts with the Nevada Humane Society to oversee animal issues on City's behalf
- They provide shelter operations, vaccines, licensing and other animal health services for Carson City residents
- They do not officially have citation authority
- Citations must be issued by the Carson City Sheriff's Office or the District Attorney's Office
- The Nevada Humane Society has 3 ACOs in Carson City
- They utilizes many forms of education including media outreach, informational brochures, social media, in person outreach, and through incoming calls to the shelter

# DOGS & OPEN SPACE

- 6,000-ACRES OF OPEN SPACE
- CARSON RIVER CORRIDOR, SILVER SADDLE RANCH, AND BUZZY'S RANCH ARE AREAS THAT MAY NEED ADDITIONAL REGULATION DUE TO SENSITIVE LANDS AND WILDLIFE
- HAVE HAD AN INCREASE IN USE ON OUR TRAILS, MAY NEED MORE GUIDANCE TO AVOID USER CONFLICTS



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



**DETERMINE IF PETS ARE WELCOMED BEFORE BRINGING THEM ALONG**

**ACCORDING TO CCMC 13.02.090, PETS ARE WELCOMED IN PARKS THAT ARE SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED FOR THAT USE.**



## OPEN SPACE PET POLICIES

Open Space areas in Carson City welcome pets on and off leash.

It is important that your pet responds to your commands and does not disrupt other Open Space visitors.

Remember to practice Leave No Trace principles by cleaning up after your pet and preventing it from disturbing wildlife.

## MORE HELPFUL INFORMATION

Every park has a specific pet policy based on a variety of factors. Please know that if a park does not allow pets, there is a legitimate reasoning behind it. If you are uncertain if pets are allowed, please contact the Parks Department before bringing your pet.

Remember to keep our parks and open space areas clean; always clean up after yourself and your pet. Waste bags are available where ever pets are welcomed.

Carson City Parks and Open Space areas are open to all community members; always be respectful of others.



3303 Butti Way #9  
Carson City, NV 89701

## Carson City Parks

Pet friendly parks and other helpful information



**QUESTIONS?**

