

# DOG PARKS

## DESIGN STANDARDS AND PROCESS





## **Design Standards for DPR Dog Parks**

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### **About the Design Standards**

The standard Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) public dog park will consist of a safe surface for play, fencing, a water source, runoff mitigation, and visual screening. DPR will also provide each dog park with signage and a community bulletin board; information will be maintained by DPR and the sponsoring group.

These standards serve as basic guidelines to applicants regarding the design of a standard public dog park that DPR will fund, design, and build once an application for a dog park has been fully approved.

The design process for any proposed dog park will not begin until the dog park application has been approved by the DPR Director and a formal partnership agreement between DPR and the sponsoring group has been finalized.

### **Dog Park Surface**

- The preferred surface shall be decomposed granite.
- The granite can be of varying size but shall not be greater than one quarter-inch (.25 inches) in size.
- The granite will be laid across the entire dog park site to a depth of at least six (6) inches.
- The decomposed granite will be laid based on manufacturer specifications.
- All necessary drainage systems will be installed prior to installation of the granite.

Alternative surfaces may be considered for certain areas and funding decisions for alternative surfaces will be made on a case-by-case basis.

### **Fencing**

The purpose of fencing around the dog park is to protect both dogs and other park users.

- The standard fence shall be five (5) feet tall. The footings shall be buried to a depth of one foot and fence panels shall be buried to a depth of six (6) inches at all locations except at access points. DPR will determine the fencing type based on each park location and available funding.
- Each dog park will have two (2) access points. These gates and all entrances will be the same height as the fence surrounding them. One will provide public access to the dog park; this entrance will consist of a double gate. The first, or outer gate, will provide user access to a sixteen (16) square-foot area. This area will serve as a buffer between the dog park area and the rest of the park. Both gates to this entrance shall be lockable. Access will be controlled by either DPR or sponsoring group managers.
- The second dog park entrance shall be for maintenance purposes only and will be controlled by DPR. This entrance will be approximately sixteen (16) feet wide in order to allow full access to the site by maintenance vehicles.

### **Water Source**

Each park will be equipped with a standard hose-bib.

### **Runoff Mitigation and Visual Screening**

Each standard dog park will include planting beds along the outside of the fence to help screen the dog park from other users and to reduce runoff from the dog park area.

### **Historic Districts and other Zoning Districts**

Many of the historic districts located throughout the District of Columbia have design guidelines for amenities in public space; it will be the responsibility of DPR to work with the Office of Planning's Historic Preservation Office for dog parks sited within historic districts.

Other zoning districts and regulations may impact the design and location of dog parks throughout the District, when this occurs it will be the responsibility of DPR to work with the appropriate office or agency.

### **Signage**

Each dog park shall have permanent signs, stating the hours of operation, rules, and regulations for the dog park, and contact information for DPR.

### **Sponsoring Group Provided Amenities**

Sponsoring groups interested in providing additional amenities to a proposed dog park shall submit a description of the proposed amenities in the proposal that accompanies their Dog Park Establishment Application. Applicants are advised that the inclusion of additional amenities will result in a more extensive design process. Please reference the "Design Process for DPR Dog Parks" section for additional information.

### **Design Process**

The design process for both a standard dog park and a dog park with sponsoring group funded amenities is outlined in the "Design Process for DPR Dog Parks" section.

## **Design Process for DPR Dog Parks**

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### **About the Design Process**

The design process for Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) public dog parks will follow two distinct paths, depending on the dog park being proposed by the sponsoring group. The two paths outlined in the application form and design guidelines are:

- **Standard Dog Park**
- **User Defined Dog Park**

Each dog park will have the same standard features as outlined in the previous section, "Design Standards for DPR Dog Parks", however a User Defined Dog Park will allow a sponsoring group to add features or upgrade amenities within the proposed dog park.

Any additional features will be paid for and maintained by the sponsoring group.

In order to address the design of a User Defined Park, DPR has created a more thorough process that will allow the sponsoring group to be more involved, while maintaining DPR's role as project manager and ensuring that the park meets all the requirements of a new public dog park.

The design process for any proposed dog park will not begin until the dog park application has been approved by the DPR Director and a formal partnership agreement between DPR and the sponsoring group has been finalized.

### **Standard Dog Park Design Process**

After a proposed dog park has been approved by the DPR Director and a formal partnership agreement between DPR and the sponsoring group has been finalized, DPR will acquire dog park design services. The designer will be provided with site specifications and DPR's "Dog Parks - Standard Design Guidelines" document.

Upon agreement of a concept design between DPR and the sponsoring group, both parties will meet with the community to present the concept design and obtain community support. Once community support has been obtained, the designer will complete construction documents. DPR will then procure construction services. Additional community meetings may be held as needed.

### **User Defined Dog Park Design Process**

As part of the Dog Park Establishment application, the sponsoring group's proposal for a User Defined Dog Park will provide a complete description of the additional uses and/or amenities the sponsoring group would like to add to the standard dog park design.

The responsibilities of DPR and the sponsoring group in regards to the design, construction, and maintenance of sponsoring group proposed amenities shall be addressed in the formal partnership agreement. After a proposed dog park has been approved by the DPR Director and a formal partnership agreement between DPR and the sponsoring group has been finalized, DPR will acquire dog park design services. The designer will be provided with site specifications and DPR's dog park standards, and the additional amenities as proposed by the sponsoring group.

Upon agreement of a concept design between DPR and the sponsoring group, both parties will meet with the community to present the concept design and obtain community support. Once community support has been obtained, the designer will complete construction documents. DPR will then procure construction services.

During the design process, DPR will meet with the sponsor group and the design team a maximum of three times. There will also be two community meetings to discuss and review the proposed dog park.

## **Additional Information and Contact Information**

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Please direct requests for additional information and questions to:

Department of Parks and Recreation  
Office of Planning and Design  
Attention: Dog Parks  
1480 Girard Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009-4612

**Phone:** (202) 673-7647  
**Email:** DPR.dogparks@dc.gov

Additional information can also be obtained from the **Dog Parks** section of DPR's website at <http://dpr.dc.gov>