

Community Focus Statement E: Improve open space and recreational opportunities for Helendale residents.

Action Statement E.7: Enhance the existing Dog Park.

E

Benchmark: Existing Dog Park is enhanced.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: variable, depending on infrastructure desired



Dog Park in Albuquerque, NM. Photo source: Jon Hurd

Fenced-in dog parks are a safe place for dogs to get physical and mental exercise, which can lessen destructive or annoying behaviors stemming from boredom. Both dogs and people can benefit from the social interaction element. Dog parks can also provide educational opportunities for owners to learn about dogs and learn from more experienced owners. Community events could serve as central meeting locations for clubs or activities, or volunteers could teach obedience classes.

Physical design for the dog park should make safety a top priority. Creating a separate space for small dogs (perhaps dogs under 20 pounds) can help prevent rough play. Additionally, there should be a written and posted set of rules, so all visitors can self-monitor and

police the park. Dogs should not be left unattended, treats and toys should not be allowed, and children must be accompanied by an adult.

A plan for maintenance should be created when the dog park opens. Groups of regular park goers can set up committees to care for and maintain the dog park. For example, this group could help discourage digging and assist in filling in holes that are created. This group could also regularly check the fencing to ensure safety or host quarterly cleanups to gather trash.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting to create a Dog Park Group	Champion	Month 1	National Recreation and Park Association http://www.nrpa.org/our-work/parksbuildcommunity/
2. Create a site plan and amenities for the existing dog park.	Champion with Community Services District	Years 1–3	American Kennel Club http://images.akc.org/pdf/GLEG01.pdf
3. Identify a source of funding or potential grants.	Dog Park Group Community Services District	Years 1–3	https://apdt.com/pet-owners/dog-park/pros-and-cons/
4. Create a management and maintenance plan for the dog park prior to opening.	Dog Park Group Community Services District,	Years 1–3	http://www.pedigree.com/all-things-dog/article-library/pros-cons-of-dog-parks.aspx
5. Enhance amenities at the dog park.	Community Services District	Years 1–3	