

BARK FOR A PARK (BFAP) OFF-LEASH DOG PARK LOCATION PREFERENCES

Sent to the Parks & Recreation Dog Park Subcommittee on February 11, 2026

1. BARK FOR A PARK'S GOAL

Bark for a Park (BFAP) is a nonprofit in Hermosa Beach dedicated to the creation of off-leash areas for dogs in the city that will:

- Be a positive asset to the city as a whole.
- Bring our city together.
- Be an asset to the dogs in our community.

We have been privileged to work with the Hermosa Beach Parks & Recreation sub-committee over the past few months as they evaluate possible locations in the city.

2. OUR POSITION ON FUNDING THE PARK

We respect whatever recommendation the Dog Park Subcommittee suggests but if the Hermosa Beach City Council (Council) follows our suggested location strategy, we would offer to fund 100% (with the City's oversight) of the design and build of the park in a partnership with the City (using a contract or MOU arrangement).

We realize the City has limited discretionary funds to direct to building a new park. Yet there is such large public support that we already have over \$70,000 in donations and pledges as of February 11, 2026. We have also recently received a matching grant for up to \$250,000 for any donation of \$100 or above. Having this matching grant fits in to our desire that this park be built by the community where every contribution matters – and now the community's support has double the impact. This matching grant is contingent on the City partnering with us on our preferred dog park location strategy which is outlined below.

We also strongly support being a compassionate partner to all dogs in the community and would like to partner with the Lovejoy Foundation, a nonprofit, no-kill animal welfare organization that already works with the City on programming, education and engagement at the new dog park. *[See Appendix 1 – Vision for Lovejoy Foundation Partnership].*

Part of the dog park design process would estimate incremental costs to the City for park maintenance and the City would approve moving forward with the build based on this information. After construction, the City would handle ongoing park maintenance. If the design moves forward with a surface such as Kikuyu grass, we believe incremental maintenance cost of maintenance to the City to be minimal. We also think there are ways the City could raise additional funds dedicated

to maintenance and we would be glad to partner with the City to help realize these additional funds [see Appendix 2 – Dog License Scenarios].

We are so excited at the possibility of working with the City to make an off-leash dog park a reality and to add an amazing asset to the city that will endure for years to come.

3. OUR LOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. TOP RECOMMENDATION – GREENBELT SOUTH OF PIER AVENUE

We believe the ideal location for an off-leash dog park in the city is on the east side of the Greenbelt path between Pier Avenue and 11th Street (stopping before the houses just north of 11th). This area would get on the east side of the walkway and not encroach on it in any way.

But - it will require a public vote in the November 2026 election to alter the zoning in that space.

3.1.1 WHY WE THINK THIS THE BEST LOCATION?

The location:

- Is in keeping with our desire to draw the city together as it is in the center of the city and easily serves residents to the East, West, South & North.
- Does not impact any neighbors which is huge as neighbor resistance seems to be a huge reason past dog park efforts have failed.
- Would not impede the current path through the Greenbelt.
- Can support up to a 14,000 square foot park with a small and big dog area, flat surface and plenty of shade.
- Would be a draw for dog owners to come downtown and attract business in the Pier Avenue corridor.
- Can be built with a design that blends in with the current natural environment.
- Supports ADA requirements with the newly hard pack walkway on the Greenbelt and nearby handicap parking.
- Has adequate parking.



We think such a park would be a wonderful addition to the facilities in the city and is worth the effort to make it work.

3.1.2 WHY IS AN ELECTION NEEDED AND WHAT DO WE PROPOSE?

3.1.2.1 BACKGROUND

In 1987, as developers threatened to build on what we now call the Greenbelt, Municipal Proposition J passed to purchase the A.T. & S.F. Santa Fe Right of Way (later to be called the Greenbelt) for parkland and open space. Development would be limited and any changes to use of the space required a public vote.

In 1989, as dog owners begin using the entire Greenbelt for dogs off leash, Municipal Proposition F required dogs to be on leash and reiterated that any change in use for the Greenbelt be made by public vote.

3.1.2.2 OUR PROPOSITION

We propose the Council send both the Greenbelt and a backup location to Public Hearing this Spring 2026. Assuming input on both locations proves generally positive, we would ask the Council to approve in Spring 2026 the Greenbelt as a location pending a positive vote in the November 2026 election and also approve a backup location in case the vote is negative. For either location, moving forward with the park build would be based on approval of the Council of the design and estimated park maintenance costs.

Bark for a Park would then work with the City to outline changes to zoning needed to allow development (e.g. fencing, water source, perhaps lighting) and allow dogs off-leash for this particular part of the Greenbelt only. These changes would be put on municipal measure on the November 2026 ballot.

Bark for a Park would take on the effort to educate and market this ballot to the public with the hope that it is successful in November's location.

3.2 BACKUP LOCATION - BI-CENTENNIAL PARK

The Bark for a Park Board believes Bi-Centennial Park is the second best location for an off-leash park:



3.2 PROS

This location:

- Is undeveloped and relatively underutilized.
- Could easily serve residents to the Southwest, Southeast (would need to cross PCH) and mid-parts of the city.
- Is bordered by an auto shop on one side and a city building on the other.
- Can support up to a 10,000 square foot park with a small and big dog area, flat surface and some shade.
- Supports ADA requirements although a handicap space would need to be added and ramps.
- Has potable water and a dog waste station already.

3.3 CONS

This location:

- Impacts ~9 neighbors.
- Has limited parking – although parking from South Park can be utilized.
- Is more difficult to access for residents in the North.

3.4 BI-CENTENNIAL PARK SUMMARY

We recognize that this location is not ideal because of possible push back by nearby neighbors, but of the remaining locations (not including the Beach which we feel could be a viable solution), we feel it is the best back-up plan.

4. SUMMARY OF OUR RECOMMENDATION

Our hope is that the City Council:

- Puts forth the Greenbelt and Bi-Centennial locations in Spring 2026 as recommended sites.
- Assuming positive results from the Public Hearing, vote in Spring 2026 for the Greenbelt as a location if zoning changes are passed in November and approve Bi-Centennial if the zoning changes are not passed.
- Vote to create a contract or MOU with Bark for a Park in Spring 2026 to create a design, build and maintenance estimates so that when the election is done in November 2026, the City and Bark for a Park will have minimal delays in beginning the work to get an off-leash dog park in the Hermosa.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

The Bark for a Park Board

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APPENDIX 1 – VISION FOR THE LOVEJOY FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

The Lovejoy Foundation is a nonprofit, no-kill animal welfare organization that already works with the City on dog rescues and is familiar to many in the city through volunteer and donation efforts.

We would like to partner with Lovejoy to create a vibrant community hub in Hermosa Beach that benefits both local residents and shelter animals. This could include:

- Promoting responsible pet ownership through education and community outreach.
- Using the dog park for dog exercise, adoption and education programming.
- Enhancing compassion and support in Hermosa Beach for animal welfare.

We have been meeting with Lovejoy and they are an enthusiastic supporter of working with BFAP and the City to benefit the lives of both residents and the dogs in our community.

We hope to work with the City to make this a reality.

APPENDIX 2 – DOG LICENSE SCENARIOS

We believe there is additional monies to be made by the City through:

- Increasing the cost of dog licenses.
- Using an education campaign and periodic spot checks at the park to increase the number of dogs who have licenses in the city.

CURRENTLY

- They city of Hermosa Beach sold 1,404 licenses in 2023 and 1,368 in 2024.
- Significant number of dogs NOT licensed (we estimate at least 3,000 dogs are in the city so perhaps less than half are licensed?). Many owners have told us they don't see the value of a license.
- License fee for an altered dog in 2026 is \$29.75.

SUGGESTION

- Increase license fee by \$5 a dog (raises \$6,840 per year based on 1,368 dogs).
- Bark for a Park works with the City on campaign to increase license numbers through campaign that emphasizes the value of license and having periodic license checks at the park.
- If the dog numbers increase by 400 it would bring an additional \$13,900 per year.

These two changes would raise at least \$20,740 which could go to dog park maintenance.