

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting | March 3, 2026

eComment Report

Agenda Item	Name	Comment	Position	Attachment URL
FEASIBILITY REPORT ON DESIGNATION OF A LOCATION WITHIN HERMOSA BEACH FOR A DOG PARK - 26-PR-008	Allyson Schwartz	<p data-bbox="661 186 1165 300">Im writing in support of designating a location at Edith Rodaway Friendship Park for an off-leash dog park.</p> <p data-bbox="661 349 1165 628">Hermosa is an incredibly walkable, community-driven city, and many residents are dog owners who currently have limited safe, local options for off-leash exercise. A thoughtfully planned, well-maintained space will help reduce conflicts in other public places in town</p>	For	

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FEASIBILITY REPORT ON tony  
DESIGNATION OF A  
LOCATION WITHIN HERMOSA  
BEACH FOR A DOG PARK - 26-  
PR-008

Dear Parks Commission, -

I believe a dog beach requiring a hb dog license is far and away the best option. i would support augmenting a dog beach with a dog park but the parks as proposed seem too small for more than a few large dogs at a time. How many dogs would the park options reasonably accommodate at once compared to a dog beach?

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## Comments on Dog Park Greenbelt Location

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From Claudia Berman <[REDACTED]>

Date Tue 3/3/2026 11:00 AM

To [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Staff and Commissioners,

When reading the staff report I was caught by surprise seeing the greenbelt not only added to the list of options for a dog run/park, but it was considered the best option by Bark for the Park.

First off, **I'm for a dog run/park. I LOVE dogs!**

However, I'm very concerned about a dog run on the greenbelt. I found the comparison matrix lacking for this option.

### **Concerns About the Matrix**

The matrix lists the greenbelt's proximity to programming as only "fitness stations," but fails to mention its primary function as a pedestrian trail. **This is a significant omission.** I walked the area at noon on a Monday and passed about 15 people (casual walkers, moms with strollers, and joggers).

The greenbelt is an active, heavily-used pedestrian corridor, and that needs to be reflected in any comparison. [Hermosa Beach Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail](#)

The matrix also seems overly optimistic about available space. Not all the ground is flat, particularly near Ardmore the closer you get to Pier Ave. There are also 2 existing benches (plus a 3rd if the dog run extends very close to Pier) that would sit very close to the proposed run.

Per established guidance (I googled), a dog run should be set back at least 10 feet from a pedestrian path, and since the benches are already only 4 feet from the path, the usable width of any run would be much narrower than the estimated box on the diagram. The setback is needed to lessen the anxiety and energy unleashed dogs can create by leashed dogs passing by.

The matrix does not address estimated square footage for any location, nor does it estimate peak occupancy or whether a reservation system would be needed. These are critical planning data points that should be included for all sites early in the planning process.

### **Safety and Compatibility Concerns**

While I love dogs, not everyone does. Cynophobia (fear of dogs) is more common than people realize, and it took years of effort to make the greenbelt ADA-accessible and welcoming to all. [Healthline: Cynophobia](#) A dog run here would effectively exclude a portion of the community from using the trail comfortably. My grandmother was very afraid of dogs. It is not that uncommon. Children can also be fearful of dogs at a higher rate than adults, which they can grow out of.

Noise is another concern. The greenbelt is currently a tranquil path. A dog run placed between pedestrians on the trail on one side and vehicle traffic on the other is likely to increase barking, diminishing the experience for everyone using the trail, especially for people using the benches.

There is also a question worth considering: would a fenced in dog run along the Ardmore side create a safety hazard for anyone needing to exit the greenbelt to Admore in an emergency?

### **Impact on the Greenbelt Itself**

The greenbelt is one of Hermosa Beach's most visible and loved amenities.

It took significant time and public investment to reach its current beautiful condition. A 6-foot fence and artificial turf would be an eyesore in a prominent part of town and would degrade the pedestrian experience. It would look even worse if it were just dirt, rather than the current grass.

The ongoing maintenance burden, particularly neutralizing urine and feces odor near benches and a walking path, would also be substantial.

The greenbelt's high-traffic location adjacent to the downtown corridor would likely draw more dogs than other proposed sites, compounding all of the above concerns.

### **Process and Community Input**

As the staff report notes, placing a fence and artificial turf on the greenbelt would require a ballot measure. This should not be taken lightly or rushed. It would represent the most significant change to the greenbelt since its inception 38 years ago.

If this option moves forward, the community deserves to see a full mock-up on site, including temporary fencing or poles showing actual height and placement, as part of the outreach.

Additionally, the city should not defer to the Bark for the Park organization for Community outreach.

The city must take the lead as it needs to balance the needs of all.

### **Other Cities**

It's also worth noting that comparable cities have not placed their dog parks adjacent to their downtown corridors. Manhattan Beach placed theirs within a large park, not along their portion of the greenbelt near Manhattan Beach Blvd. El Segundo did not use Grand Park in the center of town. There are good reasons for their choices.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Claudia Berman