

## Lompoc City Council Agenda Item



Date: October 7, 2008

TO: Gary P. Keefe, City Administrator

FROM: Dan McCaffrey, Director of Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry  
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SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO CONSIDER A DOG PARK IN BARTON PARK

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Review staff's report; accept public testimony; and consider for approval the proposal to create and develop a dog park in Barton Park.

### **BACKGROUND:**

At the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of August 13, 2008, staff presented a proposal to establish a dog park in Barton Park by a group of concerned citizens and dog owners. A motion was made and approved to accept the staff report; to take public testimony; and to support the concept of a "turn-key" dog park in Barton Park by the Barkin Dog Park Committee. At the Commission meeting of September 10, 2008, a public hearing was conducted. After discussion, a motion was made and approved to recommend to City Council the consideration of a dog park in Barton Park. As well, the motion directed staff to maintain the playground equipment in the park, to formulate recommendation regarding the establishment of rules and regulations for the dog park, formulate recommendation for a memorandum of understanding with the Barkin Dog Park Committee regarding the operational relationship of the Dog Park between the Barkin Dog Park Committee and the City. The Commission also directed staff (at a future date) to return with a resolution, establishing rules and regulations for the Dog Park, and a memorandum of understanding regarding the operational relationship of the dog park between the Barkin Dog Park Committee and the City.

The Barkin Dog Park Committee, a group of concerned citizens and dog owners have proposed a collaboration with the City to make a dog park reality. This group has proposed to create and develop a turn-key dog park on City property if the City provides the space.

Barton Park, which consists of 5.12 acres, is a City-owned property. It is centrally located in the north section of the City (south of Barton Avenue, between "H" Street and "O" Street). The Park offers easy access for both those walking or driving to the location. Barton Park sits below street grade and appears as a kidney shaped bowl of land running east to west. This park is relatively undeveloped with the exception of an outdoor basketball court and playground equipment. The rest of the park features wild grass and weed ground cover with a number of mature trees. The proposed 26,070-square-foot dog park will be placed on the western third of the park. It will feature two fenced sections, one for small dogs, and one for large dogs. The small dog section will encompass 7,750 square feet,

while the large dog section will have 18,320 square feet. A total of 930 feet (4 feet in height) of chain link fencing will be utilized. This amenity will also feature grass within the fenced sections, irrigation for the grass areas, water fountains for humans and K-9's, benches, signage stating dog park rules and other details, and service gates for maintenance purposes.

The Barkin Park Dog Committee is sensitive to the City's lack of funding for the project, and the development of the turn-key park will be 100 percent privately funded. Furthermore, this group pledges to assist with the ongoing maintenance and operations, repairs, and replacement of equipment related to the dog park. The City will furnish trashcans and liners, dog waste dispensers and bags, waste receptacles, water for the park, will mow grass, and empty trashcans and waste receptacles. The Committee anticipates the dog park being a reality within a six-month timeframe, once given approval to proceed. The dog park will be open to the public seven days a week from sunrise to dusk. The projected cost for this privately funded facility is reported to be \$30,000.

**DISCUSSION:**

It is recommended that the Council approve the proposal to create and develop a dog park in Barton Park. With the approval of the proposal, staff will return a resolution to the Parks and Recreation Commission, establishing rules and regulations for the dog park, and a memorandum of understanding regarding the operational relationship of the dog park between the Barkin Dog Park Committee and the City.

City staff and a representative from the Barkin Dog Park Committee will be available at the Council meeting to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dan McCaffrey, Director  
Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Department

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO CITY COUNCIL:

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Gary P. Keefe, City Administrator

[Attachment 1](#)   [Barkin Park Dog Committee Proposal](#)  
[Attachment 2](#)   [Barkin Dog Park Mission Statement](#)  
[Attachment 3](#)   [Site Map](#)  
[Attachment 4](#)   [Barkin Park Rules - DRAFT](#)