



City of Apache Junction

Home of the Superstition Mountains

MEMORANDUM TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
THROUGH: Bryant Powell, City Manager
FROM: Liz Langenbach, Parks and Recreation Director
DATE: August 6, 2018
SUBJECT: Off-Leash Dog Park Research

The City of Apache Junction has considered and planned for the development of an off-leash dog park for our community over the last 10 years. Unfortunately, because a funding source had not been identified, it has not been able to materialize over the years.

In 2008, the city council, with a recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Commission, adopted two master plans for Prospector Park and Silly Mountain Park to include dog parks. Additionally, in hopes of finding a short-term more cost effective site, the department previously explored options at the nearby Pinal County complex. All sites have pros and cons that should be explored more fully.

Because it is one of the top facility requests that staff hear from our community members and various city council members, an off-leash dog park was one of the concepts explored during our partnership with Arizona State University Project Cities. Students looked at several aspects of off-leash dog parks and shared their findings in a report presented to council in April of 2018. At that time, it was discussed to bring this project back in late summer for direction to staff.

Staff respectfully request to receive direction to have our Parks & Recreation Commission involve the community in further exploring options for an off-leash dog park facility and providing a recommendation to the city council that would include: best location(s) for a dog park, short-term and long-term projects, construction/maintenance costs, and potential funding sources.