



# City of Apache Junction

*Home of the Superstition Mountains*

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MEMORANDUM TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members  
THROUGH: Bryant Powell, City Manager  
FROM: Liz Langenbach, Parks and Recreation Director  
DATE: June 3, 2019  
SUBJECT: Off-Leash Dog Park Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Commission and departmental staff received direction from the City Council to consider and make recommendations for a future off-leash dog park.

Staff and the Commission researched all proposed locations, the ASU Project Cities team report, and met with various citizens to formulate their recommendation for the best location for a dog park. They also considered short-term and long-term projects, estimated construction and maintenance costs, and discussed potential funding sources.

Staff shared data and research over several monthly commission meetings, and conducted multiple site-visits to valley off-leash dog parks as well as to the potential sites in the community.

Items of consensus among citizens, commission members, and the ASU Project Cities report is as follows:

- Because of the cost, a smaller scale park with basic amenities, close to residents should be considered
- An off-leash park should be a minimum of one acre, with grass, 5 foot fencing, and separate areas for large/small dogs,
- Additional top amenities include: shade, seating for owners, and a water source

While several sites were considered, the most ideal sites for consideration included Prospector Park, Silly Mountain Park, and the Pinal County Retention basin at Superstition Blvd and Idaho Rd. This third site was conceptualized most recently in 2015 as a less costly alternative to the two original master planned locations. After visiting and considering all options, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend the county retention basin, for the following reasons:

- It is an existing City-Maintained property that already has much of the necessary infrastructure in place
- It is the least expensive site and easiest to implement
- It exceeds the minimum land requirements identified by ASU
- The proposed design includes mitigating the current inefficient drainage of the basin
- It has good proximity to the downtown area and highest density of citizens
- County leadership is open to working with the City to allow this type of an amenity at the county complex

The construction costs for this site were estimated in 2015 at approximately \$650,000. While costs have risen over the last several years, those increases could be offset by phasing certain features (like sidewalks and additional covered ramadas) if necessary. The annual maintenance and repair costs for a site of this size, maintaining grass, lighting, and cleanliness would be in the \$70,000 range, annually.

There are several options for funding the construction of a park this size. We were very successful in pairing multiple sources for Flatiron Park and would recommend taking that same approach with an off-leash dog park. By utilizing impact fees (that can only be spent building recreational amenities), grants, and corporate partnerships, there would be little to no utilization of tax payer dollars for construction.

We respectfully ask for your consideration of our recommendations, and we will be bringing this item back for a vote at a future council meeting.