

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Grover and Cheney City Council Members
FROM: Paul Schmidt, City Council Member
Subject: Proposed Off-Leash Dog Park
Date: February 13, 2020

As some of you may know, I have been meeting this past year with a local non-profit group called “Cheney Dog Park” for the purpose of reviewing the possibility of developing an off-leash public dog park in our community.

As a result of these meetings, there will be a proposal at our next City Council meeting in the form of a resolution for consideration to dedicate existing City property for the purpose of establishing a public off-leash dog park.

In support of this proposed resolution, I wish to share with you some of the listed benefits that have been discussed at some of the “Cheney Dog Park” meetings. Those being as follows;

1. Our current animal control regulations in Cheney (SCRAPS) prohibit dogs to be on public property unless they are leashed, which limits recreational opportunities for dog owners who do not own private property (apartment dwellers).
2. Dedicated off-leash public dog parks provide opportunities for dog owners to recreate on public property and comply with regulations.
3. Off-leash dog parks are becoming more common and accepted by cities and communities for the above reasons.
4. Establishing an off-leash dog park will presumably encourage local dog owners to **not** use other public parks for off-leash purposes.
5. A proposed requirement for use of the off-leash dog park is for all dogs to be licensed through SCRAPS, which might increase license fees and compliance.
6. Washington Cities Insurance Authority now provides clear off-leash dog park operational guidelines for city members.
7. The proposed location for this off-leash dog park meets WCIA requirements.
8. A public off-leash dog park can also provide side benefits such as becoming a gathering area for organized dog adoption efforts and dog training opportunities.

All told, it appears there are a number of solid benefits to consider as to why the City of Cheney should move forward to establish a public off-leash dog park.

It should be noted if the City Council approves the resolution to establish the public off-leash dog park, the local non-profit “Cheney Dog Park” is set to launch a vigorous private funding campaign to pay for improvements (fencing, gates, signs etc;).

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Cc: City Administrator Schuller and Public Works Director Ableman
Attach: WCIA Requirements

