

PRESERVE PIONEER PARK



A resident committee to keep Pioneer Park
Clean, Green and Serene



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Proposed Self-policing policy for a Dog Park

My name is Margaret Nelsen and I live at 7859 Wild Orchard Lane. I am the responsible owner of a 135-pound Great Pyrenees named Jack.

I have read every page of the Dog Park report and I can tell that people have worked very hard in its preparation. However, I am concerned about self-policing, rules enforcement and owner responsibility **or the lack thereof** and I don't think these issues have been addressed fully or without bias.

Initially I wasn't opposed to a dog park but I did feel sadness and concern about the prospect of losing the beautiful, quiet open space of Pioneer meadow where my son helped build the fire ring as part of a friend's Eagle Scout project. Then, while researching dog parks I learned about a greyhound chasing and killing a dachshund in a dog park in Plano, Texas where we used to live. This tragic incident occurred because the owner of the small dog ignored the rules and verbal warnings and put it in the large dog area. The greyhound just did what came naturally; it chased the dachshund.

But before I heard about this I had visited the Kenton County Paw Park, which has been nominated for an award as an exemplary dog park. I made the following observations on that sunny Sunday of January 29. This park is in an appropriate location, far from residences, a quarter of a mile according to your report. It is within a 43 acre park, also called Pioneer, and is bounded by a large open area, railroad tracks, a steep hill, a double A highway and an industrial area. People using it can park their cars nearby and do not have to pass any other recreational areas to enter the fenced dog park.

On this particular day I was there for less than ten minutes, taking photographs of what I believe is an ideal location for a dog park. I counted over 40 cars. At that time I observed two different people get out of their cars and walk with their dogs, unleashed, to the gate. There was also an unleashed dog in the nearby creek and another in a distant picnic area. So what I observed in less than ten minutes were four adults breaking the rules. There is no way you can assure me that the potential 400 users of our little park will be any more responsible and obey its rules. Nor do I believe that law enforcement or park personnel, or their designated agents will be there to ensure that rules are obeyed, especially since the management plan calls for volunteers to assist in routine patrols and clean up.

As I said, my original reaction was sadness but now it is fear that irresponsible people will break the rules and endanger our most precious and vulnerable residents, our children, while they are running in the park, like the dachshund. Thank you.