

Johnson County DogPAC: Special Meeting
October 30, 2003

We held a special meeting to talk with Terry Trueblood, Director of the Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department. At the September Board meeting, we asked Terry to look into several specific questions and let us know his findings.

1. Terry talked with representatives from Johnson County Board of Supervisors and from North Liberty to see if they had any interest in a collaborative effort to create a regional dog park. Neither of the governments had any plans to create a park or work with JC DogPAC.

2. Terry visited the Iowa City landfill with Rick Fosse, Director of Iowa City Public Works Department, to look at both of the 40 acre tracts located on Kansas Avenue and owned by the city. **The southern 40 acre tract is definitely not available for use as a park.** It will be used (possibly as soon as the next 5 years) as a source of fill dirt for the landfill, and was purchased for that purpose. **However, the northern 40 acre tract was purchased as a buffer for the landfill and there are no short term plans to use the land. It could be available for park use.** We talked with Terry about some of the pros and cons of this parcel. In its favor: there is already access to the land, so road building would not be necessary. A considerable drawback to the parcel is its topography. Also, the land is currently leased to a farmer and that lease runs until 2005. Terry said he would talk with the City's legal department about whether that lease could be bought out or otherwise released. The Board decided to ask help from a landscape architect who has offered services, to find out whether this piece of land could/would make a good park, or could/would be too expensive to develop.

3. Terry also reported on the possibility of using the **Scott Blvd Park**. Again, there are pluses and minuses to this tract. It is about 10 acres in size; is adjacent to a residential area; has a creek running through it, and will have to continue to serve as a storm water detention basin. In it's favor, it is much closer to town than the Kansas Ave. property, already has parking, and would require much less work to turn it into a dog park. The two largest hurdles to development for use as a dog park would appear to be possible opposition from neighbors and the cost of fencing.

4. Terry talked with City staff about whether a portion of the **Peninsula park** (at the end of Foster Road) could be set aside for a dog park. This park is already the site of well heads for the new water treatment facility, and there are some significant questions about the compatibility of those wells and the dog park. At this time, JC DogPAC has decided **not** to pursue Peninsula park as a location for a dog park.

On Wednesday, November 12th, we will meet on Kansas Avenue, at the "north" parcel, at 12:00 noon. The landscape architect will be there to look at the site and talk about its suitability for a park. Please attend if you are interested and available.

The next meeting of JC DogPAC will be Thursday, November 13th at 7 p.m., at the Old Wastewater Treatment Plant. We hope to have information by then to help us select a site. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!!