



Proposal to Develop an Off-Leash Recreation Area in Iowa City

**Submitted to the
Iowa City City Council
September 8, 2003
by the
Johnson County Dog Park
Action Committee**

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Mission of the Johnson County Dog Park Action Committee

Established in November 2002, JC DogPAC (Johnson County Dog Park Action Committee) is a community-based, grass roots organization made up of dog owners and friends who are concerned with the health and well being of companion dogs in our community.

JC DogPAC's mission is to work and advocate for the creation of a fenced, Off-Leash Recreation Area in Johnson County where people and their well-behaved dogs can socialize and exercise in a clean, safe environment, without endangering or disturbing people, property or wildlife.

JC DogPAC believes that the creation of such a park will foster an increased sense of community by encouraging social interaction among citizens within the park, while reducing encounters with citizens who are apprehensive of off-leash dogs in other public parks.





What is an Off-Leash Recreation Area (OLRA)?

Off-Leash Recreation Areas (OLRA) are fenced, designated areas where dogs may legally run, play and socialize with each other “off-leash” under the supervision and voice control of their owners.

Why Establish an Off-Leash Recreation Area?

Historically, dogs have played a vital role in our lives. Dogs have served as our family protectors, hunting companions, and law enforcers. Dogs have served as the eyes and ears of the blind and deaf, and as the arms and legs of the disabled. And, of course, dogs have been our constant companions, our best friends. Perhaps today more than ever, society is fully recognizing the many important roles that dogs play in our lives.

As dogs become a more integral part of our lives, we have seen a change in the way that people think about dogs. Over the past ten years, we have seen the booming market in pet products (as evidenced by the pet “warehouse stores”), the increasing popularity of dog sports (flyball, agility, tracking, lure coursing, just to name a few), and a substantial jump in the amount of money people are willing to spend to keep their pets healthy (the growing Pet Insurance industry is an outcome of this trend).



Dogs and dog owners are no longer to be overlooked. Dog owners are, in fact, as real as any other “group” of people. As a group with special interests and concerns, dog owners deserve the same consideration as other community groups when allocating funding and resources. To its credit, Iowa City has set aside recreation space for numerous groups -soccer, volleyball, baseball, softball, basketball and tennis players; wildlife and nature enthusiasts; skateboarders, bikers, cyclists, and joggers; gardeners, swimmers and ice skaters. While, for the most part, dogs have not been specifically excluded from these areas, the over 10,000 dog owners in Iowa City do not have a place to spend time with their dogs and with each other without having their dog tethered to a leash.

Establishing an Off-Leash Recreation Area will benefit not only the dog-owning community and their dogs, but rather will provide benefits to the entire community. Below is a list of some of the benefits of establishing an off-leash recreation area.

Benefits for the Community

- Communities with OLRAs often see a decrease in the number of dogs off-leash in other areas of the community, thereby lessening the number of unwanted encounters in areas set aside for other groups
- Dogs who are socialized and have plenty of exercise are better neighbors, and are less prone to nuisance barking and roaming
- Dogs who are exercised and allowed to run freely are less likely to be aggressive, thereby decreasing the risk of dog-related injuries in the neighborhoods
- OLRAs promote responsible dog ownership, through both formal education efforts by the sponsoring group and also informal teaching that occurs at the OLRA (e.g., picking up after one's dog, maintaining voice control)
- OLRAs provide a measure of security, both perceived and real, to single women and the elderly or handicapped persons who are most likely to fall victim to crimes. The presence of a dog and other people in the park will deter crime.
- The establishment of an OLRA could bring increased dog sporting events to the Iowa City area, bringing with them people to our community and the surrounding areas.



Benefits for Dog Owners

- OLRAs provide an opportunity for dog owners to meet and socialize with other dog owners
 - OLRAs provide educational opportunities, e.g., dog training, for dog owners
 - OLRAs provide dog owners with a place to recreate with their dogs, providing the owners, as well as the dogs, with much needed exercise
- OLRAs provide a place for handicapped and elderly persons to exercise their dogs in a barrier-free environment
 - OLRAs increase dog owners voice control over their dogs
 - OLRAs provide dog owners with the simple joy of watching their dogs be dogs-playing, running, and enjoying their surroundings without the tether, a leash, or chain

Benefits for Dogs

- OLRAs provide *safe*, enclosed places for dogs to play
- OLRAs provide dogs an opportunity to socialize with other dogs
- OLRAs provide dogs with “mental exercise” by exposing dogs to new and varied stimuli
- OLRAs provide dogs with the opportunity to *run*, free of a leash or other physical tethers
- An exercised dog is a healthy dog, with less propensity to obesity and its accompanying disease states
- By providing a place to play and socialize, OLRAs decrease boredom and the sometimes accompanying destructive behaviors of dogs who spend much of their time indoors



Note

The proposal that follows was developed from December - May 2003, based on the understanding that a 40 acre parcel of land at the southern end of Kansas Avenue was available as a potential park site.

In August 2003, the JC DogPAC Board of Directors met with Rick Fosse, Director of Public Works, and Terry Trueblood, Director of Parks & Recreation. At that meeting, Mr. Fosse indicated that it was unlikely that this parcel of land would be available to be designated as an Off-Leash Recreation Area because of future intended use by the City of Iowa City Landfill.

Because of the unique qualities that this site possesses that make it ideal as an Off-Leash Recreation Area, the members of JC DogPAC have elected to present the proposal to the Council as it was written. We ask that the Council assign a member of the City staff to work with our group to determine whether there exists another parcel of land that would be more suitable for our proposal or whether our group should continue to pursue the Kansas Avenue parcel for development of an Off-Leash Recreation Area. What follows is the proposal as originally designed, taking into account the specific features of the Kansas Avenue parcel. Depending on the parcel of land that is eventually designated for the Off-Leash Recreation Area, many of the items listed below will need to be altered to suit the designated site.

Site Selection

The JC DogPAC Design Committee spent considerable time researching existing Off-Leash Recreation Areas and dog parks across the country in order to develop a list of criteria to use to evaluate potential park sites in Iowa City. A city map showing potential

sites was provided by the Iowa City Public Works Department. Each of the potential sites was evaluated using the following criteria:

- To keep development costs reasonable, the site should already be owned by the City of Iowa City.
- To protect the health and safety of park visitors, the site should be free of environmental contaminants.
- Development of the site should not fracture an existing neighborhood or subdivision.
- Development of the site should not encroach on existing parks/recreational uses.
- To protect the city tax base, the site should not be on land slated for future commercial or residential development.
- To prevent traffic congestion, the site should be large enough to accommodate off street parking for park user areas.
- The site should have a pleasing topography.
- To prevent overuse and excessive wear and tear on the land, the site should be larger than 10 acres.
- To prevent potential damage to park infrastructure, the site should not be on a flood plane.

From a beginning list of over 10 sites, members of JC DogPAC determined that the city-owned parcel of land 2 miles west of Hwy 218 on Kansas Avenue is ideally suited for an Off-Leash Recreation Area. Parcel #1114351001 is on Kansas Ave., $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile south of IWV Road/Melrose. (See Appendix for location map, aerial photograph/plat map, and topographical map of the site).

Parcel 1114351001 is currently owned by the City of Iowa City as part of the green space buffer zone surrounding the Iowa City Landfill, and as such, future residential development is unfeasible. JC DogPAC is asking the Iowa City City Council to set aside this parcel for the establishment of an Off-Leash Recreation Area.

Off-Leash Recreation Area Design Specifics

There are a number of options for the design of an Off-Leash Recreation Area, the majority of which can only be determined after the site is chosen, as they will be site specific.

JC DogPAC has developed the attached park design specifically for Parcel 1114351001 (see appendix for design diagram). Due to the size of this project, JC DogPAC is proposing a multi-year plan for completion of the OLRA. Our planning committee has done extensive research on the creation of an OLRA. Based on this research, we are requesting the Iowa City City Council to provide the following elements necessary for a successful Off-Leash Recreation Area.

Year One - Essential elements needed to open an Off Leash Recreation Area

- Official designation of Parcel 114351001 as park site
- Suspension of the Iowa City leash law for this parcel of land
- Acceptance/authorization of OLRA plans as designed
- Grading and resurfacing of a portion of the vacated section of Kansas Avenue leading to park entrance (approximately 350 feet)
- Grading and surfacing of a park entrance (approximately 200 feet) and a 50x180' parking area for 40 cars
- Installation of a bridge over the creek separating the parking area and the fenced section of the park, similar to the bridge at Hunter's Run Park (photo 1)
- Approximately 6000 linear feet of fencing. Approximately 3500 feet of 4-foot woven wire 4"x4" grid and 2500 feet of 5-foot woven wire "No Climb" 2"x4" grid fence (photo 2)
- Three 12-foot farm gates (one per section to facilitate mowing) (photo 3)
- Four ADA-accessible 4-foot self closing gates, (one per section of park) (photo 4)
- Seeding, annual maintenance, and mowing of the approximately 14 acres of turf grass section of the park using Rural Iowa DOT seed mix
- Rental and maintenance of a temporary Port-A-John
- Signage as deemed necessary (photos 5 & 6)
- A dual sided informational kiosk in the entrance yard for posting of OLRA rules and regulations, education opportunities, events, and notices (photos 7 & 8)
- Garbage Stations: 1 can with lid and one "Doggie Dooley" waste composter per 5 acres, with weekly garbage pickup (Actual waste pick up within the park to be done by park users and volunteers) (photo 9)
- One ADA-accessible park shelter, similar to the smaller shelter at Hunter's Run Park (photo 10)

Subsequent Year(s)

- Fifteen 8 foot long benches to be distributed throughout the park (photo 11)
- ADA-accessible graded and surfaced paths though the park
- Seeding of approximately 14 acres of restored prairie section of the Off-Leash Recreation Area

(See the Appendix for actual cost estimates)

Usage Guidelines, Park Rules, Permits

With the assistance of Misha Goodman, Director of the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center, guidelines are being developed for use of the park. People wishing to use the Off-Leash Recreation Area on a regular basis will be required to apply annually at the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center for a permit. To obtain a permit, owners

will be required to show proof of a current animal license or proof of vaccination (including distemper, parvo, and rabies), and pay an annual tag fee for each dog. In addition, owners will be required to sign a Release of Liability statement and a statement agreeing to abide by all posted rules at the park. All documents will be kept on file at the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center. The guidelines and rules will meet Iowa City code, and meet or exceed those used at dog parks and Off-Leash Recreation Areas nationally. (See Appendix for examples of Rules, Application, and Waiver.)

Operating hours for the park will be dawn to dusk, 365 days a year.

Rules will be posted at the site, as will information on spay and neuter programs, training opportunities, park events, and information about the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center.

Common Concerns about an Off-Leash Recreation Area

Dog Waste

Concern: Some citizens are concerned that dog feces are unsightly and will become a health hazard.

JC DogPAC Response: While it is true that dog feces are unsightly and can pose a health hazard, dogs defecate whether they are off-leash or on-leash. The Off-Leash Recreation Area will promote responsible waste control by dog owners. The primary mechanism through which this will be accomplished will be by requiring all owners to clean up after their own dogs. The proposed OLRA will include many features to increase compliance with this rule, including signage, ample access to bags and garbage cans, as well as the placement of "Doggie Dooleys" throughout the park. While most people who use the recreation area will understand the necessity of providing a clean and healthy environment for themselves and others, there will be some exceptions. The primary mechanism to ensure that clean up regulation are followed in these cases is informal: most park users, wanting to maintain a clean, healthy environment for themselves and their dog, will be eager to remind others to pick up after their dog. In most circumstances, this self-policing by the community will help maintain a waste-free area. Since there will always be accidents, JC DogPAC will schedule park volunteers to make weekly sweeps of the area to pick up any "unclaimed" waste.

Confrontations

Concern: Some people are concerned about confrontations that might take place involving off-leash dogs. These can be confrontations between dogs as well as between dogs and humans.

JC DogPAC Response: Very few parks nationwide have reported incidents of dog bites, suggesting that this problem is generally exaggerated (National Recreation and Park Association, 1995). Further, because the dog park will be considered "neutral territory" by most dogs, they will be less prone to territorial aggression. In fact, research suggests that over 90% of incidents occur on a dog's territory and not in open public spaces

(JAMA, Jan 1997). The spaciousness of our proposed OLRA will undoubtedly minimize the potential for confrontations even further.

Despite these facts, posted park rules and regulations will include many guidelines intended to ensure appropriate use:

1. Dogs must be under owner's supervision and voice control at all times.
2. Dogs new to the park or dogs that may be aggressive in group situations should be kept in the training yard until their behavior is determined. Dogs who have injured a person or other dog by biting are prohibited from using the park.
3. Owners are responsible for all actions of their dogs.
4. Children under the age of 10 should enter only under a parent's constant supervision.

These rules and regulations will be provided when users obtain permits and will be posted immediately outside the entrance to the park. Further, community policing is likely to be effectual in many cases, as the vast majority of park users prefer to maintain a safe and friendly environment.

Liability

Concern: City officials may have concerns about liability for incidents that occur in the Off-Leash Recreation Area.

JC DogPAC Response: The concern about liability is legitimate, but evidence from existing dog parks and OLRAs suggests that risks are minimal. In fact, a study done by the National Recreation and Park Associations concluded that not a single liability suit had occurred in any of the existing dog parks. Some park rules state that owners are responsible for any damages caused by their dog, including veterinary bills if their dog bites another dog. Some cities, in addition, have dog bite statutes holding the owner legally liable for any injury caused by their dog. Other cities post a waiver of responsibility stating that the owner is responsible for their dog's actions, including but not limited to damage to park grounds and facilities as well as injuries caused by the dog. This not only relinquishes the city of liability from injury caused by eh dogs, but also from injury to or loss of the dog as a result of escape from the park.

JC DogPAC has developed, with the assistance of David Bright and Anne Burnside, a Release of Liability form that all persons who bring a dog to the park will be required to sign. In addition, signs will be posted at the park entrance reminding users that they are responsible for their dog's actions and that the City will not be held liable.

Administration

Concern: The city may be concerned about the cost of running and maintaining the Off-Leash Recreation Area.

JC DogPAC Response: JC DogPAC has worked for several months to provide the city with an accurate and thorough estimate of expenses associated with establishing and maintaining an OLRA. As noted elsewhere in this document, a permit will be required for all dogs using the park. JC DogPAC has worked with Misha Goodman, Director of the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center, to establish guidelines for obtaining a

permit. In addition, we propose, with the concurrence of Ms. Goodman, that the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center handle the application and permit process. Lastly, JC DogPAC will serve as a "friends-of-the-park" organization, and will conduct ongoing beautification, park improvement, and user education projects.

Park Support

JC DogPAC was established in November of 2002 and currently has a membership of more than 90 citizens. As information about our organization and the proposed Off-Leash Recreation Area spreads, our membership is increasing, as is our community support.

At the February 2003 JC DogPAC meeting, an initial Board of Directors was elected. Board members are: Fred Boehmke, David Bright, Anne Burnside, Beth Fisher, Misha Goodman, Barb Meredith, and Beth Shields. At the same meeting, organization Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation were adopted. These can be viewed at our web site, www.jcdogpac.org.

With the assistance of board members David Bright, president of the Friends of the Animal Center Foundation, and Anne Burnside, JC DogPAC is also in the process of applying for Federal nonprofit status. Iowa nonprofit status was granted in March 2003. With tax-exempt status, JC DogPAC will be able to raise funds through tax-deductible donations. A bank account has been opened for the organization, and donations are being received. With these donations, JC DogPAC will work to support the park and community by providing additional features such as landscaping, agility equipment, and other amenities to enhance the beauty and usefulness of the park.

map

aerial photo

topographical map

design diagram



Photo 1
Bridge at Hunter's Run Park

Photo 2
2"x4" grid "No Climb"
woven wire fencing. Used in
small dog yard, training yard,
and entrance area.



Photo 3
12 foot farm gate, one per park
section for mower access.

Photo 4.
Self closing 4'x4' gate, one per
section.



Photo 5
Signage as needed

Photo 6





Photo 7
Dual sided information kiosk installed in entrance area of park to facilitate posting of rules and park information

Photo 8



Photo 9
Garbage Station

Photo 10
12'x16' park shelter at
Hunter's Run Park



Photo 11
8 foot park bench, made of
recycled plastic "lumber"

Photo 12
Dual access drinking fountain for
humans and dogs



Cost Estimates for Off-Leash Recreation Area

- **Red** indicates items which need to be completed in order to open the park
- **Blue** indicates items that we believe are necessary for the running of the park, but for budget concerns, can be pushed back to year 2.
- **Green** indicates items that would make the park an even better place, but are not essential to park operation.

Italics indicates possible options to the item(s) above, which are preferred by JCDogPAC, usually because of cost savings.

Item	Per	Total	Estimate provided by
Road and Parking lot		Priority: Year 1	
Grading and surfacing Kansas Avenue and area for 40 parking spots, prepped and gravel covered			
Class A Road Stone for 342' road + 200' drive + 58' x 180' (40 car) parking lot (21,280ft ²)	744 tons at \$13.50 per ton (average retail price)	\$10,044.00	Barb Meredith
Class A Road Stone for 342' road + 200' drive + 58' x 180' (40 car) parking lot (21,280ft ²)	744 tons at \$6.75 per ton (city price)	\$5,027.40	Barb Meredith
8 ft wide pedestrian/canine bridge to span creek near park entrance		\$2000	Terry Robinson
<i>Option: 8 ft wide used premanufactured truss pedestrian bridge to span creek near park entrance. Bridge not in use by City of Iowa City.</i>		\$0	<i>Terry Robinson, Terry Trueblood, and Rick Fosse</i>
Concrete for bridge footings		\$500	Barb Meredith
Road and Parking Lot Total (minus grading/prepping costs)		\$15,600-\$17,600	
Fencing		Priority: Year 1	
4 ft. woven wire fencing with 4" x 4" grid (approximately 3,500 feet)	\$3.00 per LF	\$10,500	LifeTime Fence Co.
5 ft. woven wire fencing with 2" x 4" grid (approximately 2,500 feet)	\$4.54 per LF	\$11,250	LifeTime Fence Co.
3 drive-through gates for trucks (for park maintenance)	\$250 each	\$750	LifeTime Fence Co.
4 gates that swing both ways with spring locks	\$120 each	\$480	LifeTime Fence Co.
<i>Clearing brush and other shrubs</i>	<i>\$0/hour</i>	<i>DogPAC volunteers</i>	
Fencing Total		\$22,980	

Item	Per	Total	Estimate provided by
Garbage Stations		Priority: Year 1	
(We would like to try the Doggie Dooleys along with the garbage cans. If the Doggie Dooleys turn out to be effective, then we would want to add more and decrease the number of garbage cans.)			
5 Rubbermaid "Brute" commercial grade 32 gallon cans with lids (1 per 8 acres = 5 cans total)	\$23.94 each	\$119.70	Lowe's
5 bag dispenser kiosk (1 per 4 acres = 10 total) Made by volunteers		\$0	
Poop bags (donations from park users)		\$0	
5 Deluxe Doggie Dooleys (1 station per 8 acres)	\$48.50 each	\$242.50	Composters.com
5 Doggie Dooley enzyme	\$6.50 per 1 year supply	\$32.50	Composters.com
5 Pooper Scoopers	\$12.99 each	\$64.95	DrsFosters&Smith.com
Garbage Station Total			\$460
Information Sources		Priority: Year 1	
Information kiosk by entrance		\$750	
Signage (for parking, rules, reminders about poop pick-up)		\$1,000	
Information Sources Total			\$2,750

Item	Per	Total	Estimate provided by
Trails		Priority:	Year 1—basic trails only Year 2—full trail development
Mowing of basic path as it naturally occurs through use.	???	???	
Grading and Prepping trails (Entry + Option 1)		????	
Rock for entry paths + Option 1 (8' x 3360')	\$9.50 per LF	\$28,376.50	Barb Meredith
Gravelpave2 for entry paths + Option 1 (4.9' x 3360')	\$2.50 per ft ²	\$41,160	Quick Supply Co.
Grading and Prepping trails (Entry + Option 2)		????	
Rock for entry paths + Option 2 (8' x 2325')	\$9.50 per LF	\$19,636.50	Barb Meredith
Gravelpave2 for entry paths + Option 2 (4.9' x 2325')	2.50 per ft ²	\$28,481	Quick Supply Co.
Option 1 Trails Total (minus grading/prepping)		\$28,377 - \$41,160	
Option 2 Trails Total (minus grading/prepping)		\$16,637 - \$28, 481	
Trails Total		Year 1 - mowed only \$0 Year 2 - option 1 \$19,636 - \$28,377 or Year 2 - option 2 \$28,377 - \$19,637	
Benches		Priority:	Year 1—cut log benches Year 2—manufactured benches
6 or 8 foot recycled plastic bench (15 total) (Recycled plastic benches run in the \$400 - \$500 range)	\$400 - \$500 each, depending on size and materials	\$6,000 - \$7,500	Eco-Furniture.com
Benches Total		Year 1	\$0
		Year 2	\$6,000

Item	Per	Total	Estimate provided by
Restrooms	Priority:	Year 1—Port-a-John	
<i>Port-a-John (Priced for one year with weekly maintenance)</i>	<i>\$85 per month</i>	<i>\$1,020</i>	
Restroom Total		Year 1	\$1,020

Shelter	Priority:	Year 1 - basic park shelter	
Shelter kit - based on shelter at Hunter's Run Park		\$5,083 - 6,546	Terry Trueblood
shipping		\$250	
cement floor		\$500	
Shelter Total		Year 1	\$5,800 - \$7,300

Maintenance		Priority: Year 1	
Mowing (provided by City of Iowa City)		\$0	
Emptying of Garbage cans (provided by City of Iowa City)		\$0	
Maintenance Total			\$0

	Year 1 Total	\$51,010 - \$54,510
	Year 2 Total	\$26,637 - \$51,160
	Year 3 Total	\$7,000
	Project Total	\$84,700 - 112,670

Iowa City Off-Leash Recreation Area Proposed Rules

For Owners:

Maximum of two dogs per handler.

All dogs must be supervised by an adult handler, 18 years and up.

Dogs must be within owner's eyesight and under owner's voice control.

Owners must clean up and dispose of fecal matter.

Owners must carry one leash per dog.

No food in the park.

Training treats only; must be carried in a container or training/bait bag.

Owners must respect the requests of other dog owners regarding their animals.

Owners are responsible and liable for any damage caused by their dogs.

Children must be supervised at all times. Parents of young children should be especially cautious.

For Dogs:

Dogs must have permit to use the park and display tag on collar.

Dogs must wear some type of collar while in park.

Dogs must remain on leash until inside fenced area.

Dogs must be vaccinated against parvo, distemper, and rabies.

Aggressive dogs will be asked to leave the park with owners.

Intact females may not attend park while in heat cycle.

Puppies must be over 4 months of age and vaccinated as indicated above.

Sick and lame dogs will not be permitted to use park.

Iowa City Off Leash Recreation Area Release of Liability

I hereby acknowledge that I voluntarily have applied to participate and use, with my dog(s), the Iowa City Off-Leash Recreation Area. I understand that the act of unleashing my dog(s) and being physically present inside the off-leash park necessarily involves risks of injury to me, other people, my dogs(s), and other dogs, and which risks are entirely my responsibility. I expressly assume all these risks. I am aware of the risks and hazards inherent upon entering the off-leash area and I choose to voluntarily enter the premises knowing that the condition might become more hazardous and/or dangerous for myself and/or dogs(s) and that I voluntarily assume all risks, loss, damages, or injury that may be sustained by entering the off-leash area. The permit system is not established to guarantee that dogs in park are safe or healthy. I further understand that dogs, irrespective of their training and usual past behavior or characteristics, may act or react unpredictably at times based upon instinct or circumstances, and I agree to assume the risk of injury to me, any individual (including children) accompanying me in the off-leash area and my dogs(s). I further understand and assume the risk that not all dogs in the off-leash area have been vaccinated for Distemper or Parvo, all of which could result in injury to me and my dogs(s) or companions. Additional risks include, but are not limited to dog fights, dog bites and injuries to humans and other dogs; dog theft or unlawful capture; dog escape over or under fences; plants and/or water sources in the park may be poisonous to dogs or people; park vegetation may have burrs or seeds that could become tangled in a dog's coat or lodge in a dog's feet, ears, nose or eyes; mosquitoes, ticks, chiggers, fleas or other insects may be present; wild animals such as skunks, raccoons, opossums, or stray dogs could be present in the park, all of which might injure or infect my dog(s). I understand and expressly assume all additional risks.

It is my understanding that no agent or employee of the City of Iowa City, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Animal Care Center, or the Johnson County Dog PAC organization will supervise the off-leash area at any time. I further understand that neither the City of Iowa City, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Animal Care Center or the Johnson County Dog PAC organization, or any other organization renting parts of the park for teaching dog classes or dog shows assumes liability for loss, damage or any kind of injury sustained by any human or dog while using the off-leash area. I, therefore, expressly assume all risks associated with using the off-leash dog park, as well as fixtures and equipment located therein.

By signing this release of liability and using the off-leash dog park, I hereby fully and forever release and discharge the City of Iowa City, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Iowa City Animal Care Center, the Johnson County Dog PAC, and their volunteers, employees and agents from any claims, demands, damages, rights of action or causes of action present or future, whether the same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from or arising out of my use or intended use of said off-leash area premises. I fully and forever release and discharge the City of Iowa City, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Iowa City Animal Care Center, and the Johnson County DogPAC organization and their employees and agents from any and all negligent acts and omissions in the same, and intended to be legally bound by this release.

I have carefully read this release of liability and understand and fully agree with its contents. I also have received a copy of the brochure outlining rules for use, etiquette for dog owners, and recommendations for dog owners.

This is a release of liability. Do not sign if you do not understand or do not agree with its terms. Any owner/handler using the park must sign this waiver. IF THE APPLICANT HAS NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF LEGAL MAJORITY (18), THE SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN SHALL ALSO BE REQUIRED.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____