

SVCA Safety Committee Agenda Addendum

Key best-practice takeaways

- **Design & layout**
 - Provide **secure perimeter fencing** with **double-gated vestibules**, clear sightlines, and separate small/large dog zones; include shade, seating, potable water, dog wash, and abundant waste stations. Surfacing and **drainage** should be purpose-built (e.g., decomposed granite, engineered turf) to avoid mud and runoff. nrpa.org
hawaiianhumane.org
 - Site away from children's play, sport fields, and primary pedestrian flows; buffer with landscape; place **parking near the dog-area entry** to reduce conflict in shared spaces. hawaiianhumane.org
- **Operations & rules**
 - Post **high-visibility rules** at every entry (vaccinations/licensing, age limits for puppies, no in-heat dogs, remove at first sign of aggression, max handlers/dogs per person, active supervision, immediate waste pickup). cityclerk.lacity.org/issaquahwa.gov
 - Consider **membership/permit systems** (key-fob or card) to verify vaccination/licensing, control overcrowding, and support cost recovery for maintenance. [Park District of Highland Parkferndalemi.gov](http://ParkDistrictofHighlandParkferndalemi.gov) [Wilton Manors](http://WiltonManors)
 - Establish daily inspection/cleaning, periodic surfacing top-offs, gate/lock checks, and seasonal drainage/sanitation plans. [AKC Images](#)
- **Risk management**
 - Adopt dog-area-specific rules, conspicuous **assumption-of-risk signage**, and incident reporting; coordinate with insurance on coverage/limits and premiums. [HOA Lawyer Blog+1](#)
 - Align with local **animal control and nuisance codes** (leash, licensing, noise, waste) to support enforcement. [MRSC+2MRSC+2](#)

Pros & cons in a mixed-use park

A. Unfenced/off-leash in general park spaces (by policy or in practice)

Pros:

- Lower capital cost; flexible space use; larger running areas if fields are open.

B. Cons / risks:

- High conflict potential with other users (youth sports, picnics), sanitation issues, and uneven enforcement; can drive other users away from intended activities. [Menlo Park](#)
- Greater liability exposure and reputational risk when misuse displaces programmed uses; difficult to control dog counts and vaccination status. [Marsh](#)

Fenced, designated off-leash area (unlocked)

Pros:

- Physical separation reduces conflict; standard features (double-gates, rules signs) improve safety; easier to clean/maintain; can size for small/large dogs.

Cons:

- Upfront capital and ongoing maintenance; crowding at peak times without access control; rules compliance relies on voluntary behavior.

Fenced, controlled-access dog park (key-fob/permit)

Pros:

- Verifies **vaccinations/licensing**, limits over-capacity and problem use, and can support cost recovery (fees); access can be suspended for rule violations. [RevizePark District of Highland Parkferndalemi.gov](#)
- Provides clearer **risk management** framework for the HOA: posted rules, membership agreement/waiver language, incident tracking.

Cons:

- Higher admin overhead (issuance/renewals, deactivations); equity/access considerations for non-members; technology costs (locks/fobs). [Town of Pittsford](#)

Recommended path for a mixed-use setting (Marina Park & adjacent amenities)

1. **Choose a fenced, designated area** with **separate small/large zones**, double-gated entries, lighting to posted hours, shade/seating, dog-level and human-level fountains, and robust drainage/surfacing.
2. **Adopt clear rules** (vaccination/licensing, minimum dog age ≥ 4 months, remove at first sign of aggression, max 2–3 dogs/handler, children supervision limits, pick-up required). Post at each gate; mirror online.
3. **Implement controlled access** (pilot): annual membership with key-fob; require proof of rabies and core vaccinations/licensing; align fees to cover direct O&M (surface top-offs, bags, repairs).
4. **Risk management package:** conspicuous assumption-of-risk signage, incident log, camera coverage at entries only (not in-park), and insurance review before opening.
5. **Buffer & circulation:** place the entry and parking on the park edge, not through playfields/picnic shelter approaches; landscape buffers to reduce line-of-sight reactivity and noise.
6. **Enforcement alignment:** cross-reference SVCA rules with county animal control and nuisance codes (noise, waste, leash) for clarity and escalation.

Discussion items

- Site fit and buffers relative to sports field and shade structure (finalize possible footprints).
- Feature set & surface (DG vs. engineered turf; drainage detail).
- Rules package and signage text (draft set attached for review—vaccines, age, aggression, max dogs/handler).
- Access model decision: open vs. permit/key-fob pilot, fee schedule, and admin workflow.
- Insurance/risk: coverage confirmation, signage/waiver language, incident protocol.