

Fitch, Abby

From: Elizabeth Austen <eausten@live.com>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 10:06 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Westminster Hills Open Space

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Hello,

I wanted to add my voice to the chorus regarding not reducing the size of the off leash dog area. It's a unique place and I think it can remain as a special resource if we can just implement some logical management changes, as suggested by the Guardians. I love the models that Boulder and Cherry Creek have, with the Voice and Sight tags and pay to play parking. Cherry Creek also has some wonderful agility features that my dog Calvin and I just love. Would love to see something like that at WHOS in the future, but for now, I understand we are just working to come to agreement about not reducing the size of the off leash area. I am willing to participate in a volunteer program, if that becomes part of the solution. I always try to pick up a couple of other dog poops and bags when I'm there, anyway.

Here are more great ideas from the Guardians:

Community Clean Up

Re-instate and partner with the community for regular volunteer clean-up days.

Dispensers

Add additional poo bag dispensers and trash cans throughout park to encourage visitors to keep it clean.

Closures

Implement closures on muddy days as well as revegetation closures seasonally.

Signage

Enhance signage to clearly state park rules, identify trails and closed areas and reiterate the downfalls and fines for non-compliance.

Enforcement

Enforce existing laws, including parking, poo pick up, unleashed dogs outside of park, and number of visitors.

Fundraising

Consider fundraising with interested citizen groups to include ideas such as parking passes, local vendor Saturdays, memorial bricks, and more.

Revisit Wire Fencing

The new fencing around the parking lots is dangerous to both dogs and wildlife. This fencing also funnels all dogs, people and bicyclists into a confined entrance, thereby increasing chances for negative encounters.

Park Improvements

Install trail edging and additional bridges over ditch.

Thank you.

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