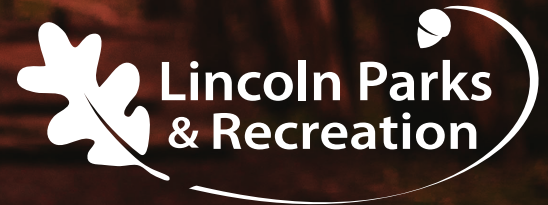


DOG USE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN FINAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 3, 2016



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS + CREDITS

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Lincoln has 128 parks, 131 miles of trails, seven recreation centers, and five golf courses that are enjoyed year round by Lincoln's residents and visitors. As the champion of these valuable community assets, the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department encourages community input to guide its planning and visioning process in the interest of creating a legacy of parks and recreation resources fundamental to the community.

An emerging trend in Lincoln and across the United States is the desire by park users to recreate with their dogs in parks in unprecedented numbers. Lincoln is thriving and growing and, as a result, demand continues to rise for more and better park amenities for all park users. In addition, more and more park users are exploring ways to visit their neighborhood, community and regional parks with their dogs. Dogs and their owners present the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department the challenge of addressing the demand and impact of more dogs in our parks. This challenge is most evident for Lincoln residents who live in or near downtown and in southwest and northeast Lincoln where no dog use facilities exist at this time. These challenges have prompted the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department to develop this Dog Use Facility Master Plan.

Both national and local statistics support the need to plan for increased use of park facilities by dogs and their owners:

- There are approximately **80 million** pet dogs in the United States
- **40%** of U.S. households own at least one dog
- Dog parks are one of the fastest growing segments of city parks nationally
- There are more households with dogs than with children in the U.S.: 43 million with vs. 38 million without

- There are an estimated **66,360** dogs in Lincoln.

The Trust for Public Land, a national leader in parks, open spaces and related public policy issues, has identified that “the hottest city park issue to hit America is the skyrocketing support for creating places to let dogs run free...” The phenomenon is evident in Lincoln too where, anecdotally, the city's two dog use facilities—Rickman's Run in southeast Lincoln and Oak Creek Dog Run in northwest Lincoln—are perhaps the city's most used park facilities. On days when the weather is nice, the parking lot at Rickman's Run is commonly at capacity or overflowing. With the two dog use facilities noted above, the City of Lincoln ranks low compared to similarly-sized U.S. cities for the number of dog parks per 100,000 residents, according to the Trust for Public Land's rankings. The ranking is based on number of parks, and does not take into account the park size.

This planning process was initiated to address how Lincoln can further improve opportunities to support and accommodate all park and open space users in a healthy, sustainable environment. Lincoln Parks and Recreation has come to recognize the need for more and different types of spaces for dogs and their owners in close proximity to dwellings, in particular near downtown Lincoln.

The goal of this process is to develop an easy-to-use master plan, which includes recommendations for strategies to develop reasonable and effective solutions for increasing the use of parks by dogs and their owners.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The planning process for this master plan was initiated by Lincoln Parks and Recreation to explore the potential for adding new dog use facilities. The success of Lincoln's existing dog use facilities and the demand for additional off leash facilities supports this planning process and the study of new policies and locations for additional off leash facilities in Lincoln.

GOAL

The goal of the planning process and the master plan is to develop reasonable and effective solutions for increasing the use of parks by dogs and their owners, and to foster healthy relationships between dog owners, non-dog owners, and all park users.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives for the planning process and recommendations include:

- Community and stakeholder engagement
- Existing facility assessment
- Research best practices
- Develop prototypical design standards and guidelines for existing and new facilities
- Establish level of service standards, guidelines for site selection, and identify general locations for future dog use facilities
- Recommend policies and regulations for the operation and maintenance of facilities.



COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

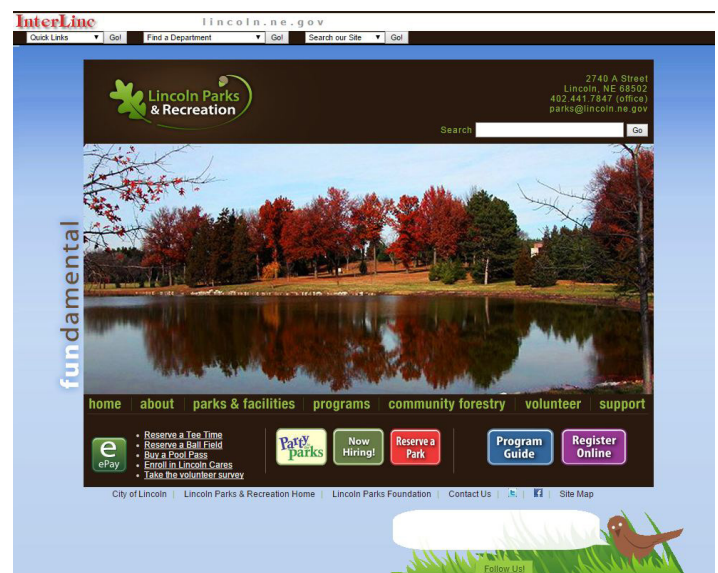
The master plan report and recommendations were formed with input from an internal steering committee consisting of Lincoln Parks and Recreation staff and Advisory Board, representatives from Lincoln Animal Control, input from the Friends of the Dog Parks, Inc. (FODP, private stakeholder group), Lincoln residents and dog facility users via Open Lincoln, an online survey tool.

The online survey was conducted in April 2015 (text of the April 2015 online survey is shown on the next page). The survey included questions on demographics, existing facility use, frequency of use, and areas for improvement. Feedback from the survey was used to form the basis for finding ways to improve existing facilities, potentially develop new facilities and to strengthen dog owner responsibilities.

In November and December 2015, a draft version of this master plan report was made available to the FODP, members of the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Lincoln Animal Control and online (LPR web site) for public comment prior to finalizing. During the review phase, numerous comments/concerns/suggestions were received that could generally be grouped into three categories:

(1) suggestions for general improvements to existing and proposed facilities, (2) location proposals, and (3) specific concerns at each of the two existing dog use facilities. This report has been revised to incorporate and/or address feedback to the extents reasonably feasible before seeking endorsement from the Lincoln Parks & Recreation Advisory Board in February 2016.

The text of the online survey is shown on the next page.



Lincoln Parks & Recreation Dog Use Facilities Master Plan Survey

The Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department is undertaking a Dog Use Facilities Master Planning process to guide facilities improvements and the potential development of new dog use facilities in the future. The planning effort started March 2, 2015 and is anticipated to conclude mid-summer 2015 with a presentation to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. More information will be available on the Lincoln Parks & Recreation website - <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/parks/> - as the project progresses.

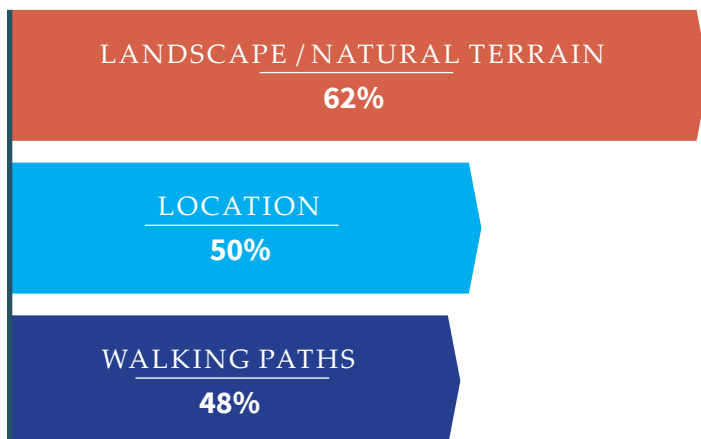
1. Which dog run do you visit?
 - ☐ Rickman's Run
 - ☐ Oak Creek Dog Run
2. How often do you visit?
 - ☐ Daily
 - ☐ Weekly
 - ☐ Monthly
3. How long is your typical visit?
 - ☐ Less than 1 hour
 - ☐ More than 1 hour
4. What size dog(s) do you have?
 - ☐ Small < 25 pounds
 - ☐ Large > 25 pounds
5. What are your aspects/favorite features (please select all that apply)?
 - ☐ Portable restrooms
 - ☐ Walking paths
 - ☐ Small dog area
 - ☐ Landscape/natural terrain
 - ☐ Location
 - ☐ Other. Please explain in the comments field.
6. What aspects/features need improvement or need to be addressed (please select all that apply)?
 - ☐ Parking facilities
 - ☐ Big/small dog conflicts
 - ☐ Drinking water
 - ☐ Shaded seating
 - ☐ Collection of pet waste
 - ☐ Informational signage
 - ☐ Other. Please explain in the comments field.

Comments—Please share your comments in the space provided below or on the back of this survey.

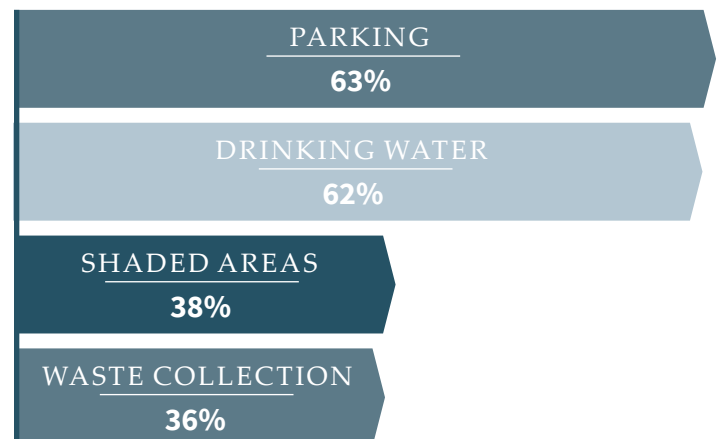
The results from the 300 responses are summarized below:

- Rickman's Run users – 67% of respondents
- Oak Creek users – 33%
- Daily users (both facilities) – 18% of respondents
- Weekly users – 32%
- Monthly users – 35%
- Facility usage by duration
 - Less than one hour – 42% of respondents
 - More than one hour – 43%
- 61% of all respondents have large dogs (over 25 pounds)
- Best Features:
 - Landscape/natural terrain – 62% of respondents
 - Location – 50%
 - Walking paths – 48%
- Features that need improvement:
 - Parking – 63% of respondents
 - Drinking water – 62%
 - Shaded area to sit and rest – 38%
 - Pet waste collection – 36%
- Additional comments were very consistent with survey responses. Common comments and themes were:
 - More parking needed at Rickman's Run.
 - Fence along 70th Street at Rickman's Run needs improvement.
 - Dogs often get muddy in the creek at Rickman's Run and it would be great to have a washing station available on site.
 - All weather surface—mulch, cement, gravel, etc.—needed at entrances.
 - More mulch needed on walking paths.
 - Too many owners allow big dogs in small dog area.
 - Small dog area needed at Oak Creek Park.
 - Shade needed at Oak Creek Park.
 - Fill in holes and cover “old” trash at Oak Creek Park.

BEST FEATURES



FEATURES THAT NEED IMPROVEMENT



EVALUATION OF EXISTING FACILITIES AND ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY NEEDS

In addition to the online survey results, an evaluation of the existing dog use facilities and an inventory of private facilities was completed.

Lincoln Parks and Recreation has two existing off-leash dog use facilities, both classified as Dog Runs. Rickman's Run consists of approximately 24 acres and is located in southeast Lincoln, east of 70th Street between Van Dorn Street and Pioneers Boulevard; it's immediately east of the Holmes Lake Park and Golf Course. Rickman's Run is adjacent to residential land uses on the north and east, and commercial land uses on the south. It is easily accessible to the surrounding neighborhoods via sidewalks and trails.

The Oak Creek Dog Run consists of approximately 17 acres and is located in northwest Lincoln at the southeast corner of NW 1st Street and Cornhusker Highway. Oak Creek Dog Run is isolated from surrounding land uses by transportation corridors on the north and east, Cornhusker Highway and Interstate 180 respectively. The facility is bounded by Oak Creek on the south and vacant city-owned property on the west. The facility is accessible via the trail on NW 1st Street, but is mainly accessed via automobile.



Both facilities are enclosed by fencing with containment gates at the entrances. The facilities generally are unimproved, natural settings and contain limited amenities, such as all-weather walking paths, benches, and portable restrooms. Rickman's Run features a separate small dog facility, while Oak Creek does not. Both facilities have gravel parking lots with space available for approximately 40 to 50 vehicles per lot.

A facility evaluation was created for this planning process and completed by LPR staff and members of Friends of the Dog Parks. The form provides for the evaluation of existing conditions related to: design elements, natural features, structural elements, benches, water fountains, waste-bag stations, waste cans, signage, community bulletin board, and restrooms.

In summary, the priority needs for the existing dog use facilities are:

Rickman’s Run

The natural features at Rickman’s Run, e.g. the natural trails, Antelope Creek, wooded areas, primarily are viewed as an asset and an amenity. However, because of the creek, dogs often get dirty, prompting a limited call for installation of washing facilities.

- Expanded parking lot
 - Potable water for dogs and owners
 - Maintain trails with additional wood chips or rock
- Dog rinsing facility
 - Area/security lighting

Oak Creek Dog Run

- Potable water for dogs and owners
 - Maintain trails with additional wood chips or rock
 - Addition/improved landscaping and shade trees
- Shade structures for dogs and owners
 - Small dog area
 - Area/security lighting

ANNUAL COST DATA

The table below shows LPR’s current annual data for cost to operate and maintain (O&M) the two existing dog runs on a cost per acre basis. Compare costs to the cost per acre associated with O&M for neighborhood parks, community/regional parks, and conservancy areas. As the data shows, O&M of our two dog runs is much less on a per acre basis than either neighborhood or community/regional parks, but more than conservancy areas.

| Facility | O&M Cost | Size (acres) | O&M Cost/acre |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Rickman’s Run | \$7,214 [†] | 23.7 | \$304 |
| Oak Creek Run | \$3,221 [†] | 16.6 | \$194 |
| Neighborhood Parks | \$627,721 [‡] | 397 | \$1,580 |
| Community/Regional Parks | \$1,002,532 [‡] | 1,715 | \$584 |
| Conservancy Areas (excluding Wilderness Park) | \$26,665 [‡] | 1,801 | \$15 |

INVENTORY OF PRIVATE DOG USE FACILITIES

The following inventory of private facilities identifies, by name, the facility and the services provided by such facility. This list includes organizations which provide dog day care as a primary service versus overnight boarding and in-home boarding or pet sitting. A goal of the planning process is to identify the gap filled by private facilities and to ensure that Lincoln Parks and Recreation does not impede the growth and development of such private-sector facilities in the community.

A Pause for Paws – 5034 Old Cheney Road – *apauseforpaws.com*

Services: dog walking, pet sitting, and in-home boarding.

Camp Bow Wow – 5620 S. 49th Street – *campbowwow.com*

Services: dog day care, full service grooming and retail products for dogs, and overnight boarding.

Driftwood Kennels – 100 McKelvie Road – *driftwoodkennelsinc.com*

Services: dog day care, full services grooming, overnight boarding, and training.

Kenl Inn Downtown – 2019 P Street – *kenlindowntown.com*

Services: dog day care, full service grooming and retail products for dogs.

Nebraska Animal Medical Center – 5720 Old Cheney Road – *namcvet.com*

Services: dog day care, grooming, boarding and veterinary services.

PetSmart Doggie Day Camp – 2801 Pine Lake Road – *pets.petsmart.com*

Services: dog day care, full service grooming and retail products for dogs.

The Canine Scrub – 2774 South Street – *thecaninescrub.com*

Services: self-serve dog wash with tool provided for bath and dry.

U-Paws Pet Wash – U-Stop at 71st & Pioneers

Services: self-serve, climate controlled pet wash station.

BEST PRACTICES RESEARCH

The planning process included evaluating best practices from across the U.S. for off-leash dog areas. Analyzing levels of service and pros and cons from other cities strategies and policies was very useful in identifying the best solutions for Lincoln. The size, features, fees, level of service, and location of dog use facilities varies widely. In addition, park policies and practices such as affinity group sponsorship and management is commonly used across the country for dog use facilities.

The following is a summary of best practices from across the U.S., including practices from a few cities Lincoln compares its policies to on a regular basis.

Highlights from Best Practice Research

- **Des Moines, IA** (comparable city) – Des Moines has three fenced, off-leash dog parks. A dog park permit fee of \$20 per year, per dog is required.
- **Omaha** (comparable city) – Omaha has two fenced, off-leash dog parks managed by a non-profit organization in city-owned parks. See www.omahadogparks.org.
- **Springfield, MO** (comparable city) – Springfield has one, fenced, off leash dog park. A dog park permit fee of \$25 per year, per dog is required for a maximum of two dogs per owner.
- **Sioux Falls, SD** (comparable city) – Sioux Falls has two off leash dog parks. One park is fenced and the other is not fenced.
- **Englewood, CO** – Englewood, a Denver suburb, has five off-leash dog use areas within existing city parks that are unfenced and open for use in the early morning and evening hours.
- **Portland, OR** – Portland has six fenced dog parks that are open 24 hours per day and 7 days per week. The city also has 27 designated areas in existing parks where dogs can run off-leash during seasonal hours depending on daylight hours.
- **Minneapolis, MN** – Minneapolis has seven off-leash dog areas; six are fenced and one is not. Minneapolis requires a permit tag for use which costs \$35/year for the first dog and \$25/year for each additional dog. The permit program reportedly has increased licensing and vaccinations.

The Trust for Public Lands regularly evaluates park and recreation programs and facilities for cities across the United States. The Trust's ParkScore evaluation provides a valuable benchmark for cities to use to compare how they are performing in relation to cities of similar size across the country. In addition, the City of Lincoln regularly compares itself to similar cities in the Midwest. These cities are: Des Moines, IA; Omaha; Overland Park, KS; Sioux Falls, SD; Springfield, MO; St. Louis, MO; St. Paul, MN; Tulsa, OK; and Wichita, KS.

The following table is the level of service comparison of Lincoln with regard to off-leash dog use facilities per 100,000 population (Source: City Park Facts 2014, Trust for Public Land). It serves as a reasonable evaluation tool to determine the need for additional dog use facilities in Lincoln. It is noted that the data in this table is based on number of facilities only and does not take into account the size (acres) of each facility.

Off Leash Dog Parks/Runs Per 100,000 Residents

| City | Off Leash Dog Parks/ Runs | OLDP Per 100,000 Residents |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Portland, OR | 32 | 5.3 |
| Norfolk, VA | 11 | 4.5 |
| Las Vegas, NV | 25 | 4.2 |
| Henderson, NV | 11 | 4.1 |
| Arlington, VA | 8 | 3.6 |
| Madison, WI | 8 | 3.3 |
| San Francisco, CA | 27 | 3.3 |
| Tampa, FL | 9 | 2.6 |
| St. Petersburg, FL | 6 | 2.4 |
| Seattle, WA | 14 | 2.2 |
| Lincoln, NE | 2 | 0.74 |
| If Lincoln had... | 4 | 1.5 |
| | 5 | 2 |
| | 8 | 3 |
| Des Moines, IA | 3 | 1.45 |
| Omaha, NE | 2 | 0.46 |
| Overland Park, KS | 1 | 0.55 |
| Sioux Falls, SD | 2 | 1.21 |
| Springfield, MO | 1 | 0.61 |
| St. Louis, MO | 8* | 2.51 |
| St. Paul, MN | 2 | 0.68 |
| Tulsa, OK | 3 (1 private) | 0.75 |
| Wichita, KS | 3 (2 private) | 0.78 |

Source: City Park Facts 2014, Trust for Public Land

** includes suburbs*

Note: data is based on number of facilities only and does not take into account the size (acres) of each facility.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Lincoln's existing dog use facilities are well used and popular with users. However, the best practices research shows that Lincoln ranks low with respect to its comparable cities for the number of dog parks per 100,000 residents based on number of facilities only (number of facilities does not take size/acres into consideration). Based on this research and the evaluation of Lincoln's existing dog use facilities, the following recommendations are outlined to address the demand for additional dog use services and to make basic improvements to existing facilities.

Definitions established by Lincoln Parks and Recreation: The terms Dog Runs and Dog Parks are often used interchangeable; however, Lincoln Parks and Recreation has established the following definitions or classifications.

- Definitions
 - Dog Run
 - Dog Park
 - Un-fenced Dog Run
 - Small Dog
 - Large Dog
- Dog Facility Location and Design Guidelines
 - Service Area
 - Site Criteria
 - Design Criteria
 - Dog Facility Rules
- Other Considerations for Dog Use Facilities
 - Small Dog Only Parks
 - Pay-as-you-go Facilities
 - Members-only Facilities

DEFINITIONS

Dog Run – Fenced and gated open space with minimal amenities where dogs are permitted to be off-leash for the purpose of exercise, play and social interaction with other dogs. Similar to conservancy areas, Dog Runs involve a minimal amount of grounds maintenance.

Dog Park – Fenced and gated open space that may include amenities intended for use by dogs and their owners. Dog Parks are managed with a level of maintenance similar to standard park operations that include routine care of the grounds and amenities.

Un-fenced Dog Run – Designated open space with minimal amenities where dogs are permitted to be off-leash for the purpose of exercise, play and social interaction with other dogs. The designated spaces for Unfenced Dog Runs may be changed from time to time for recovery and restoration of ground cover. In addition, the usage time for Unfenced Dog Parks may change seasonally due to daylight considerations. Similar to park conservancy areas, Unfenced Dog Runs involve a minimal amount of grounds maintenance.

Large Dog – Any dog taller than 15 inches in height.

Small Dog – Any dog 15 inches or less in height.

POTENTIAL DOG FACILITY DESIGN GUIDELINES

Service Area

An evaluation of Lincoln's dog ownership, based on Lincoln Parks and Recreation GIS system (see Exhibit 1 – Existing Dog Use Facilities Service Areas), indicates that a three-mile service radius for dog use facilities is recommended, with the addition of identifying a dog use facility location in downtown Lincoln, because of the higher density of development in this area. The identification of park land, surplus or vacant land within a three-mile service area in all four quadrants of the city will provide opportunities for filling the existing voids in dog use facility service areas across Lincoln.

- Three-mile service area
- One designated/fenced facility (dog run or dog park) in each quadrant of Lincoln, e.g. northwest, northeast, southwest and southeast
- One facility (dog park) in downtown Lincoln

Based on the evaluation of existing facilities and best practice research, the following site selection and design criteria was developed for any proposed off-leash area within the Lincoln Parks and Recreation system. Site and design criteria for sites not within the LPR system will be developed and reviewed on a case by case basis.

The recommended criteria accommodate a wide range of potential options for off-leash dog use areas from exclusive-use, fully fenced areas to shared use sites with limited or no fencing and time of day use restrictions. Some key considerations for new dog use locations are walking distance from neighborhoods, adequate parking, city-wide distribution, and community/neighborhood involvement and support.

Site Criteria

- No designated natural areas or wildlife habitat
- No toxic residue from previous uses
- Positive drainage
- Clear separation from other park uses/amenities such as picnic areas, athletic fields, or trails via a fence, vegetation, or an acceptable distance
- Distance of 100 feet from a playground or other children's facility
- No arterial streets within 200 feet unless the area is fully fenced
- Access to existing off-street parking
- Good connection to adjacent/surrounding neighborhoods via pedestrian connections, e.g. sidewalks or trails
- No other site within the same service area (3-mile radius)
- Possible separation distance from adjacent residential neighborhoods

Design Criteria

- Minimum size of one acre; larger areas are more desirable
- Off-street parking adjacent to the site; the number of stalls should increase with the size of the facility
- Non-linear layout to maximize usable space
- When fenced, use a minimum of four-foot tall perimeter fence with a minimum of two double-gated entrances plus two, ten-foot wide maintenance gates
- ADA accessible paved path from parking area through entrance(s) area
- Separate areas for large and small dogs (with separated entrances) is desirable
- Crusher fines surfacing around entrance(s) at least 30'x30' in total area
- Alternative surface area minimum, e.g. crusher fines, field turf, mulch, pea gravel, etc.; the balance can be native vegetation
- Trash receptacles located near entrance/exit
- Dog waste clean-up stations with bag dispensers and trash barrels
- Community bulletin board/informational kiosk
- Shade trees or shade structure
- Benches
- Restroom (portable)
- Drinking water for users and dogs
- Attractive visual buffer from surrounding residents and/or park areas via vegetation or fencing
- Segmenting the area to allow for rotation of use and vegetation recovery and regeneration is desirable
- Consideration for area/security lighting
- Rules and Regulations signage

Dog Facility Rules

The enjoyment and positive experience for dog use facilities visitors depends on each dog owner taking responsibility for their dog(s). The following is a list of regulations are Lincoln Municipal Ordinances that involve dogs and the responsibilities of their owners and shall be observed by all facilities users: Off-leash dog area will be open from sunrise to sunset seven days a week unless closed for maintenance.

- Dogs must be licensed per Lincoln Municipal Ordinance 6.08.030).
- Dogs must be vaccinated against rabies virus per Lincoln Municipal Ordinance 6.08.020.
- Dogs must wear a collar with a City License tag per Lincoln Municipal Ordinance 6.08.080.
- Owner Is responsible for cleanup and disposal of dog waste per Lincoln Municipal Ordinance 6.08.155.
- Dogs declared dangerous or potentially dangerous are prohibited per Lincoln Municipal Ordinance Chapter 6.10).

- It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog involved in a bite or bodily injury to another person to fail to immediately prevent further bites or injury per Lincoln Municipal Ordinance 6.08.240.

In addition to these regulations, rules should be posted near the entrances and presented in a clear, welcoming and easy to read format. Suggested facility rules for posting on site are as follows:

- Off-leash dog area is open from sunrise to sunset seven days a week unless closed for maintenance. (Consideration for area/security lighting that may extend hours of operation to 11:00 pm).
- All dog owners and park users enter at their own risk and assume full responsibility for their actions and those of their dog(s).
- Dogs must be leashed when entering and leaving the enclosure. Please close the gate behind you.
- Please clean up after your dog. Dog feces and other waste must be properly disposed in a timely manner.
- Dogs must be supervised and under handler's control at all times. Do not allow your dog to jump on people.
- Please remove your dog from the area at the first sign of aggression. Handlers are responsible for any injury or damage caused by their dog.
- Please report bites to Animal Control at 402-441-7900. It is the duty of the dog owner in the case of a bite or injury to provide their name, address, rabies tag number and license tag to number.
- In case of emergency, call the Lincoln Police Department at 911. To report non-emergency concerns to the Lincoln Police Department, call 402-441-6000.
- If your dog is under four months old, in heat, or ill, please bring them another time.
- Dogs must be currently vaccinated, licensed and displaying the appropriate tags.
- Dogs must be spayed or neutered.
- Dogs must be accompanied by a person 17 years of older. Children under 17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.
- Do not bring human food into the area.
- Please clean up toys, chairs, water dishes or any trash you find.
- Have fun, play safe and cooperate with others! The rules and regulations to which dog owners and park users must follow are enforced by a limited number of City staff.

Enforcement Strategies

Budgetary limitations make it impractical to designate enforcement personnel to dog use facilities and thus the responsibilities for implementation of rules and regulations should be shared with facility users. The following measures are recommended to enhance compliance.

- Prominently post rules and regulation signage on the City's website and at the entrances to all dog use facilities.
- Prominently post Lincoln Animal Control phone number so that users can call in serious/habitual violations of facility rules and/or animal control ordinances.
- Encourage formation of sponsor groups to assist in keeping facilities clean, to promote greater park user understanding and to monitor park use for habitual offenders.

Other Considerations for Dog Use Facilities

- Future consideration for designated unfenced areas within parks (1-2 pilot acres for a trial period)
- Partner with the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Foundation to provide a means for those interested in providing financial support to do so (e.g., text to donate).

LOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

In response to the priority needs for the existing dog use facilities previously identified in this report, the master plan includes the following recommendations for improvements to the two dog use facilities currently in existence.

The current configuration at Rickman's Run requires those wanting to access the designated small dog area to pass through the large dog area. During preparation and review of this report, multiple comments were submitted in regard to this configuration, the conflicts it can generate and the desire for separate entrances. Numerous comments were also submitted regarding the limited availability of parking at this location. As a result, site reconfiguration and the development of additional parking facilities is recommended. An alternative site configuration considered worthy of further evaluation by LPR staff generally consists of (a) adding off-street parking to the southwest corner of the existing dog run area that would be accessed from 70th Street, (b) developing a new entrance for the large dog area in association with this new parking facility, and (c) maintaining the existing parking facility and gated entrance for the small dog area. This would serve to increase the availability of off-street parking while creating separate entrances to the designated small and large dog areas.

The existing Oak Creek Dog Run is located on a parcel of land that once served as a land fill. Unfavorable soil conditions make establishment of both turf and trees very difficult. During preparation and review of this report, several comments were submitted in regard to the desire for more/better landscaping and shade trees. In addition, over time, land fill remnants such as broken glass tend make their way to the surface causing concern for dogs and owners alike. As a result of these conditions and alternative potential future land uses for the area surrounding Oak Lake Park, relocation of this facility to another northwest Lincoln park is recommended. Upon inspection of potentially suitable alternative locations in the same general service area, a location in the southwestern end of Roger Park East (bounded by Adams Street on the north, Lynn Creek on the east and I-180 on the west) has been identified.

In addition to improvements to the existing facilities, development of three new dog use facilities in northeast Lincoln, southwest Lincoln and near Downtown is recommended to fulfill the near-term goal to provide one dog facility in each quadrant of the community plus a dog facility to serve residents living in downtown.

See Exhibit 1 – Existing Dog Use Facilities Service Area

See Exhibit 2 – Prospective Park Locations Map

See Exhibit 3 – Priority Location Service Areas

- **Northeast Quadrant**
Mahoney Park (fenced/off-leash dog run)
- **Southwest Quadrant**
Peterson Park (fenced/off-leash dog run)
- **Northwest Quadrant**
Roper Park (fenced/off-leash dog run for alternative location to the Oak Creek Run)
- **Downtown**
South Haymarket (fenced/off-leash dog park)
- **Potential Future Dog Use Facilities to meet long-term community growth**
Stevens Creek Park (Northwest Quadrant)
Bison Park (Southwest Quadrant)
Jensen Park (Southeast Quadrant)

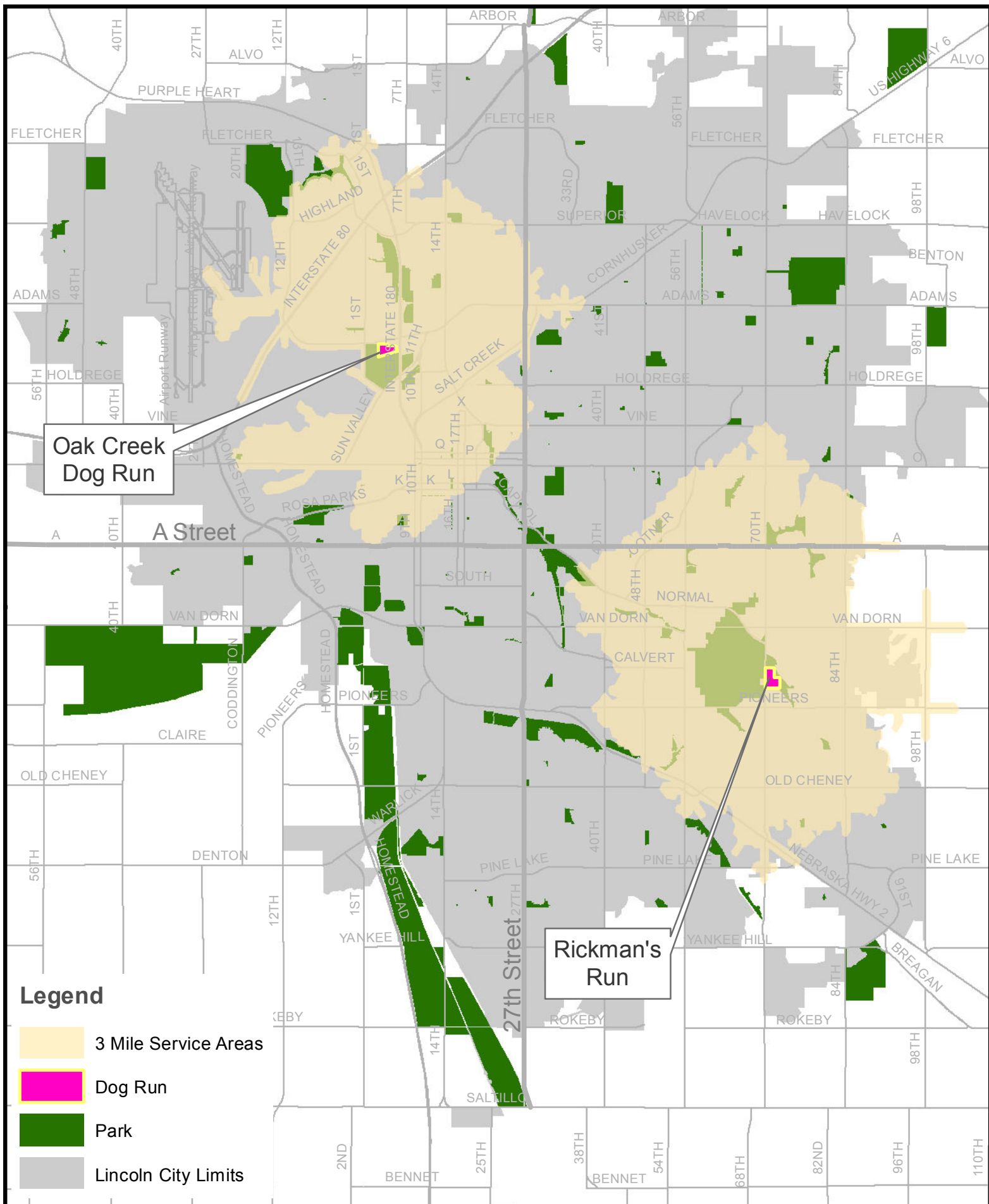


Exhibit 1 - Existing Dog Use Facilities Service Areas

1 inch = 8,000 feet

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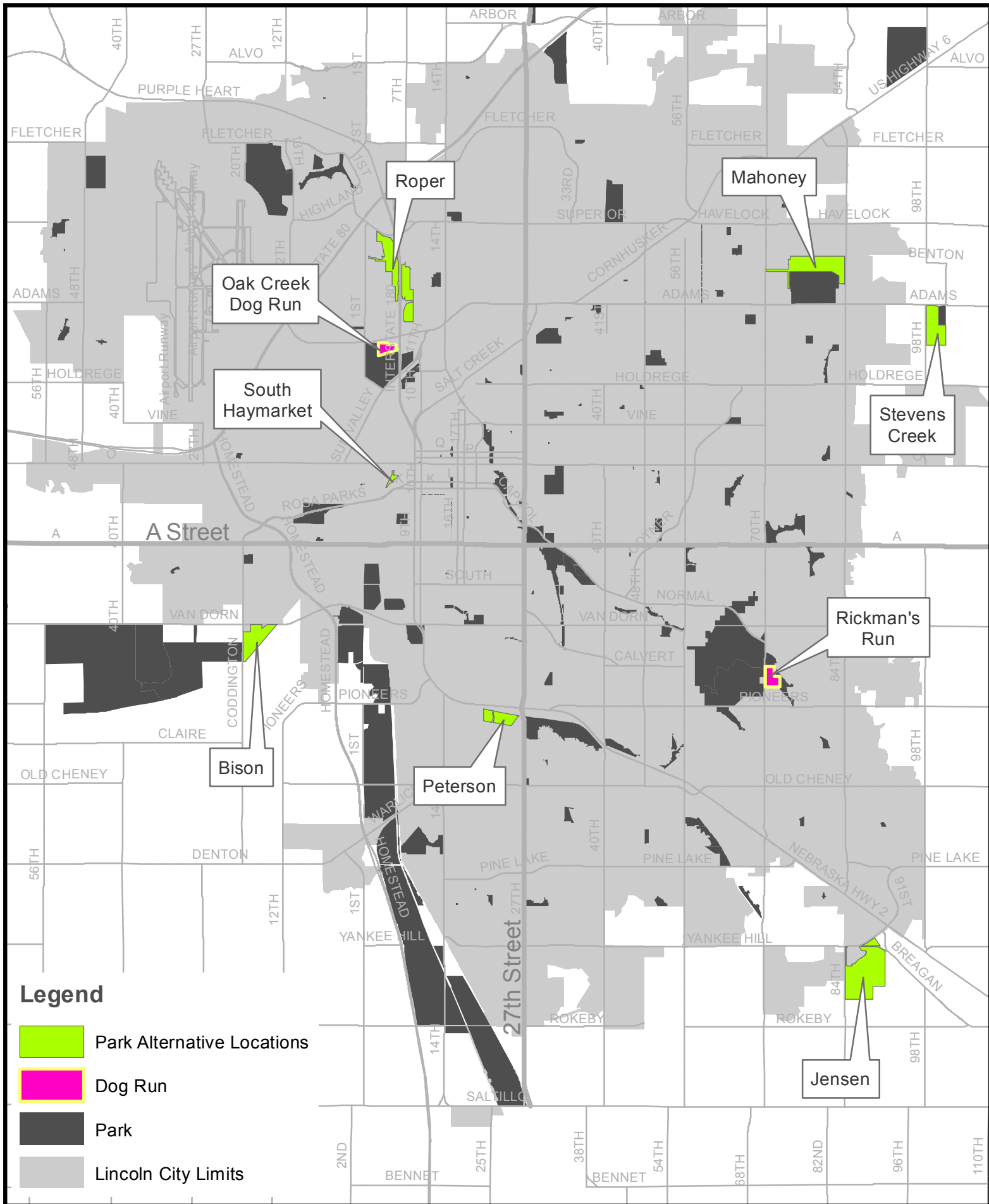


Exhibit 2 - Perspective Park Locations Map

1 inch = 8,000 feet

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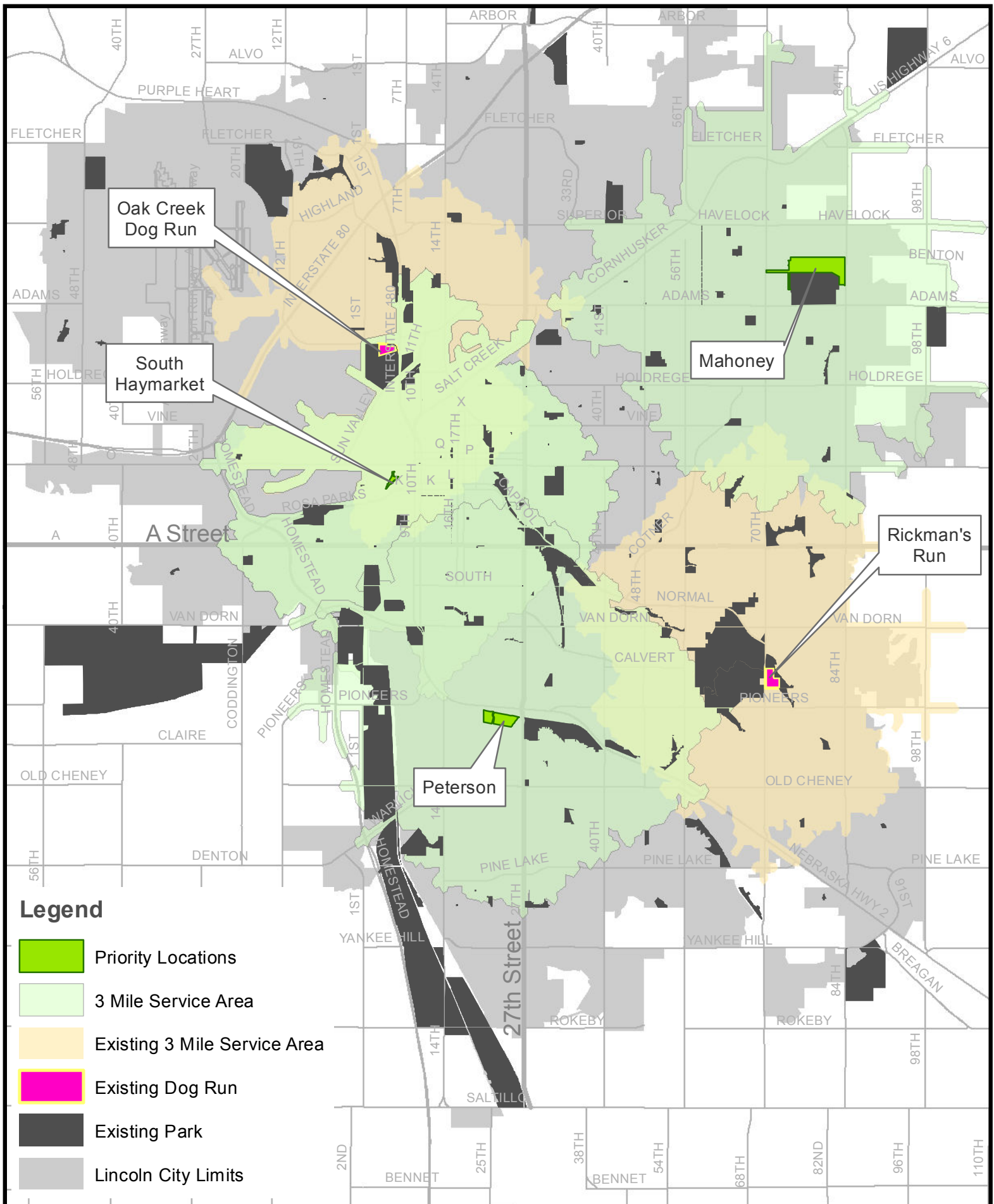


Exhibit 3 - Priority Location Service Areas

1 inch = 8,000 feet

11-12-15





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