



CITY OF RAPID CITY

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Parks and Recreation Memo

Date: December 29, 2006

To: Mayor Jim Shaw and City Council Members

From: Jerry W. Cole, Director

Subject: Off Leash Dog Area

Recommendation: The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommends that the City Council designate the area north of Rapid Creek, between East Boulevard and 5th Street and south of New York street and Prairie Market, an off leash area. (See attached map)

Summary: Neighborhood police team members, North Rapid citizens, and area business owners have brought forward a proposal to create a new off leash zone between 5th Street & East Boulevard and north of Rapid Creek.

This area, which lies in a lower, out-of-the way area along Rapid Creek, seldom gets utilized for meaningful park purposes except for the occasional biker traveling along the Rapid Creek bike path. The citizens, Police and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board feel that if an off leash area is created in this part of our park system, more citizens and visitors would utilize the area for traditional park purposes.

Nearly half of all pet owners now travel with their pets when going on vacation. We currently have four off leash areas in the community, located in Robbinsdale Park, Knollwood Drainage area, Wilderness Park, and Braeburn Park. There is no off-leash area located in close proximity to the downtown area of Rapid City. Supporters of this proposal feel that creating an off-leash zone near downtown Rapid City will give visitors and citizens alike an area to exercise their pets. Also, the proximity to Rapid Creek will provide an opportunity for pets to cool off when exposed to our summertime heat.

We anticipate that bringing more responsible park users into this area will reduce some of the problems we have seen in this area in the past. We feel that the more eyes we can have in this area, the less likely we are to have illegal activity. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.