

Apache Junction Dog Park – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This document will be updated regularly, as new questions are addressed. If you don't see your question here, or you would like more information, please contact the Parks and Recreation department directly at ajpr@apachejunctionaz.gov.

History

The City of Apache Junction has considered and planned for the development of an off-leash dog park for our community for over 10 years. In 2008, the city council, with a recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Commission, adopted two master plans for Prospector Park and Silly Mountain Park to include dog parks. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, it had not been able to materialize over the years.

Because it has been one of the top facility requests that staff hear from our community members and various city council members, the off-leash dog park project was revitalized in 2017/2018 when the City partnered with Arizona State University Project Cities. Students looked at several aspects of off-leash dog parks, evaluated multiple potential sites, and shared their findings in a report presented to council in April of 2018. After several follow-up public meetings of the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission, the work of designing and constructing an off-leash dog park began.

Where will the dog park be located?

The dog park site is at the corner of Superstition Blvd. and Idaho Rd. The identified space is a retention area that currently serves as a passive recreation space on Pinal County property, that the City of AJ is responsible for maintaining. Pinal County and the City of Apache Junction entered into an Inter-Governmental Agreement allowing the City to design, construct and maintain an off-leash dog park, while also mitigating drainage problems at the basin.

Will there be grass at the dog park?

Yes, the City will provide grass at the dog park and it will be overseeded annually. Additionally, there will be scheduled maintenance and resting times/days for the grass areas.

What amenities will the dog park include?

- 3 separate fenced areas to provide options for different types of dogs and rotating of grass
- Solar lighting throughout
- double entry gates for added security and safety
- substantial shade trees and benches for dog owners
- pet waste stations and tools for owner clean-up spaced strategically throughout the park
- water stations – drinking fountain for owners and water bowls for dogs
- Covered ramada
- Public art installations

Will there be restrooms located at the dog park

The space is small and will not have a dedicated restroom facility; however, patrons will have access to nearby restrooms at the county complex and at nearby Veteran's Memorial Park.

How will the Dog Park be funded?

As we shared with our commission and City Council, design and construction will come largely from Development Fees (assessed fees on new residential and commercial developments that can only be spent on specific park spaces and facilities). This fund will be supplemented with our Corporate Partnership program, grants, and fundraisers.

Who will clean up after dogs and dog owners?

Dog owners will be responsible for cleaning up after their dogs and themselves. Multiple pet waste stations and tools will be available throughout the park for owners to utilize. Parks staff will also provide daily, routine clean-up, sanitation and maintenance at the park.

What is the city's plan for establishing rules, regulations, and enforcement protocols at the park?

The department is working with Park Rangers, Animal Control staff, and citizens to develop best practices for rules; a program for educating the public and park-users; and routine patrols by park rangers and animal control

personnel for enforcement. Similarly to our other parks and facilities, dogs and dog owners that cannot follow the rules will be suspended from utilizing the dog park.

How can I get involved?

The Parks and Recreation Department is looking for citizens who want to help with developing operational protocols, fundraising, and/or joining a volunteer rotation that helps with maintenance and education at the park. Contact us at ajpr@apachejunctionaz.gov if you are interested in helping out.

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