

Dog Park Resolution

Adopted July 17, 2019

Whereas – The 22202 communities have been expressing a need for dog parks for decades and the population of both residents and pets continues to increase

Whereas – The 2008 Aurora Highlands Neighborhood Conservation plan requests the creation of two dog parks, and specifically recommends Virginia Highlands Park and Fort Scott park

Whereas – The 2019 Arlington Public Spaces Master Plan identifies a high need for dog parks in both the north and south sides of Aurora Highlands

Whereas – The lack of dog parks is resulting in public spaces such as Metropolitan Park becoming defacto dog parks inhibiting other uses

Whereas – Arlington is becoming increasingly car-free, many area residents have limited access to transport pets to other dog park facilities, and optimal siting of a facility is within a 10 to 15 minute walk

Whereas – Arlington county has rejected efforts to site a dog park at Fort Scott but has indicated Eads park could be an acceptable site, and experts have indicated a proposed site at Virginia Highlands has the ideal space and services for a dog facility

Whereas – Virginia Highlands Park is slated for capital maintenance improvements in the not-too-distant future, allowing easy and cost-effective uses now, with more permanent options in the future

Whereas – The Aurora Highlands Civic Association in 2016 endorsed a proposal to redevelop the west side of Virginia Highlands Parks to meet the current and future needs of residents

Whereas – Residents have a commitment from Arlington Ridge Civic Association to support a dog park at Eads, and residents have formed Pentagon City Dogs with pledges to support a dog park at Virginia Highlands Park

Whereas – Residents have actively solicited and received support from residents across the neighborhood, in single-family homes, condos including Southampton, and multi-family buildings including River House, Pentagon Row, Instrata, Met Park, and Crystal Houses

Therefore - Aurora Highlands Civic Association supports the creation of at least two public, fenced, off-leash dog parks of sufficient size to accommodate residents within a 15 minute walk, with one temporary park on the north side centered at Virginia Highlands Park with the option of expanding into space currently occupied by a softball field, and one on the south side centered at Eads Park, open for use by 2020.