

Dog Park Option #1:

Acquire no less than 5 acres on the north side of town

Find no less than five acres of land on the north side of Sun Prairie for a second dog park location. City staff previously completed a search for 10 acres or more and found approximately five options, with two of them being potentially viable, outside of cost barriers. This option will expand the initial search to include less acreage and may bring up additional locations. This would also address citizen concerns about their commute to the existing dog park as it would provide a close location for those residing on the west and north sides of town. Staff is not recommending the site be any less than five acres in size, as anything smaller may contribute to crowding, which would potentially exacerbate the same concerns many of the existing issues at the current existing dog park which is 11 acres.

Pros

- Close to the original site of the Reserve Park
- Liberty Park may be a possible location (but will need to address wetland delineation)
- Solves issue of proximity
- Provides a second dog park option for the community

Cons

- Limited options for land acquisition
- Land acquisition may be cost prohibitive
- 5 acres is not a large-sized dog park; potential for crowding
- Does not solve concerns of city's growth/not enough dog park acreage

Estimated Cost: \$500,000 - \$800,000

Dog Park Option #2A:

Acquire 10+ acres anywhere in Sun Prairie: Location Known – Temporary, but long-term

Utilize approximately 15 acres of the 30 acres of land in a pending city land acquisition. This option would be a temporary, yet still long-term solution as it would provide land for a dog park usage for the next 10-15 years, or until the intended use of the land is needed. This solution would require fencing, construction of a gravel parking lot and would need to provide a gravel access road to the potential dog park location. The location is in close proximity to the existing dog park.

<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low cost option• Will solve concerns of city's growth/not enough dog park acreage• Provides a rustic, second dog park option for the community• No land acquisition costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Temporary solution; need to plan for what happens when land is needed for expansion of city services• Sale of land is still pending• Does not solve issue of proximity

Estimated Cost: \$120,000 - \$150,000

Dog Park Option #2B:

Acquire 10+ acres anywhere in Sun Prairie: Location Unknown, permanent

Expand the search for land acquisition outside of the original parameters of the north side of town. Staff is recommending that the size be no less than ten acres in size to accommodate the long term growth of Sun Prairie and concerns of not having enough dog park acreage. By expanding the search area to anywhere in Sun Prairie and not just the north side of town, staff may be able to find more options in this size range that provide more feasibility from a cost standpoint than option 1.

<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will solve concerns of city's growth/not enough dog park acreage• Land acquisition may cost less in different areas of town• Land availability and number of feasible options may increase by expanding search to all of Sun Prairie	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depending on location, proximity issue may not be addressed• Land acquisition may be cost prohibitive• "Starting from scratch" plus fencing in 10+ acres of land makes this the most expensive solution

Estimated Cost: \$600,000 - \$900,000

Dog Park Option #3:

Develop “micro” dog parks at 4-5 existing City parks

Repurpose land at 4-5 existing city parks to be fenced in as pet exercise areas. This option would address both proximity concerns and growth concerns as more micro parks could be added as the City continues to grow. However, smaller, micro parks do not offer the same experience as a larger multi-acre dog park, which may not produce the intended outcome for adding them. Additionally, this would require neighborhood buy-in and also incur additional staff time for maintenance and upkeep. This would be the most cost effective solution for adding dog park acreage to the City’s Park system, but would also eliminate open green space as well.

<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addresses proximity concerns• Provides value and options for residents that own dogs and live in dwellings with small or no yards• Makes pet exercise areas more accessible to the community as a whole	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Could cause concern/disapproval of residents who share property line with neighborhood parks• User intent and experience is different from small pet exercise areas and large dog parks – unlikely to address concerns of city’s growth/dog park acreage• Removes multi-use open space from the City’s park system

Estimated Cost: \$100,000 - \$130,000

Dog Park Option #4:

Enhance existing dog park; no second dog park

Enhance the existing dog park and remove the option for a second dog park from discussion. While this option will not solve proximity or city growth issues, it would allow the opportunity for minor enhancements and the ability to focus on improving the reputation of our existing dog park. The 2017-2021 Parks and Open Space Plan community survey responses show responses of dissatisfaction to the existing dog park due to the challenges of the lower area being in a wetland. Additional investment, time and attention at the existing dog park could add amenities such as an agility course, new fencing for the small dog area, additional benches, and leash posts. A solution to the lower, wetland area would be to install a boardwalk (for dog owners to use) and fence off the lower area with entrance gates at each side. This way, owners who want to avoid the wet area and keep their dogs clean and owners who want to let their dogs play in the mud can do so without getting wet and muddy themselves.

*It should also be noted that in April and May of 2020, a crushed limestone trail was added and a short list of minor repairs was completed, which has already resulted in positive feedback from dog park users.

Pros

- Lowest cost solution
- Remedies the dissatisfaction with the wet areas being unusable
- Provides additional (optional) usable acreage of the existing dog park by adding the boardwalk and gated entry to low, wet area
- Provides additional amenities and enhances dog and owner experience

Cons

- Proximity issue is not addressed
- Does not provide additional acreage beyond making wet areas more usable
- Does not provide a second location for Sun Prairie residents

Estimated Cost: \$75,000 - \$100,000