

**Citizen Statement  
Accompanying the Petition  
for  
the Relocation of Dog Park Proposal  
at Hollow Park**

**February 2, 2021**

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

We are at a crossroads that will determine the future identity of the park. The current use of the park suggests that it is largely a trails and nature park. It is truly one of a kind in the city. An extension of Payson Canyon minutes from anywhere in the city, and the entry to the Nebo Loop Scenic Byway. Locating a dog park at Hollow Park or any other existing park will take something away from residents. If we chip away at it bit-by-bit, the loss of this special habitat and the uniqueness of this location will never be restored. One dog owner who signed our petition stated, "It is like a little Central Park in Payson City." Other dog owners repeatedly expressed, "I'm all for a dog park, but Hollow Park is not the place for it." They understand the unique nature of the area with the peaceful and undisturbed landscape where one can find serenity and connect with nature in a way that's not possible at any other city park.

In addition to the concerns outlined in the petition, the following concerns were brought up repeatedly by residents as we were obtaining the signatures:

- 1) Cost: This location would require the city to spend more of the budgeted PARC's money on a fence that doesn't benefit the dog park. All the homeowners along Hollow Park are bound by a development agreement to install wrought iron fencing, which carries substantial additional cost over the standard dog park chain link fencing. This means more of the budget goes towards the fence, and not the dog park as originally proposed. It's basically throwing away tax payer money.
- 2) Size: The proposed dog park is less than an acre, and smaller than the three other locations that were considered previously. Any consideration of expansion with the requirement of wrought iron fencing at Hollow Park adds expense with no value to a dog park and further encroaches on the natural and undisturbed landscape. This is not a good use of PARC funds. The PARC funds were approved by our local PARC committee, the funds are retained locally and do not have to be returned like a federal grant, never to be awarded again. We acknowledge there will be a temporary delay, but it is better to do it right, then to do it right now.
- 3) Parking: There is no parking lot near the proposed location, the only currently available option is limited street parking along a major collector road, and requires unloading dogs on a heavily trafficked road.
- 4) Sanitation: The proposed location is directly adjacent to the children's playground and picnic areas. The geography of the natural basin brings canyon winds through the park, potentially carrying microscopic fecal material and odors from the dog park over the playground and picnic areas located nearby. Concentration of fecal contamination in close proximity to areas where food is regularly consumed and where young children and others play poses an unnecessary health risk.
- 5) Geography: Hollow Park is situated in a natural drainage basin that is in shade/shadow for longer periods of the day. Grassy areas in the park are prone to wear and do not easily recover, particularly surrounding the playground and picnic areas. These growing conditions will also make it difficult for the grassy areas of the dog park to grow and recover, especially in the winter when snowy and icy conditions in the park persist much longer than they do at street levels

outside the park, and parts or all of the dog park may need to close periodically during winter months.

- 6) Security: In addition to sanitation and aesthetics, security reasons dictate the location of a dog park. For maximum visibility, design experts recommend locating dog parks in an area with a clear line of sight from the street or parking lot, unobscured by trees and shrubbery.

We are asking the city to identify a location for a new build without the constraints of an existing park, and without misusing PARCS money on a fence that doesn't add any value towards the dog park. What do residents truly value about Hollow Park? They treasure the peace, tranquility, abundant wildlife, and opportunity to connect with a wild and natural landscape in a city park. By choosing to develop in a new area the City will only add benefit and not take anything away from residents, and this beautiful, distinctive and natural attraction of Payson City.

On behalf of the citizens for relocation of the dog park, we thank you for your consideration,



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