



Alief Dog Park Project Proposal

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RICE UNIVERSITY

Executive Summary

Alief, a diverse community situated in southwest Houston, comprises approximately 113,000 residents. Despite its considerable population, one notable unmet need which has been identified by the Alief community and the Alief Super Neighborhood Council is the absence of a communal dog park. In recognizing this unmet need and the numerous mental and physical benefits such a space can offer both dogs and their owners, we propose two conceptual designs and detailed cost breakdowns for a one-acre dog park within Boone Road Park. Through extensive research and collaboration with local landscape architects, we have curated a list of features and amenities which should be incorporated into these two dog park designs. As a part of this, we conducted a case study on two dog parks in Houston – Trebly Park and Levy Park – and considered what aspects should be considered for the design. Following this, leveraging insights from site visits and the LJA Planning and Landscape Architecture Department, we advocate for the dog park’s placement in an unused area in the southeast corner of the park. Offering flexibility, we present plans and cost estimates for both standard and enhanced designs, including delivery and labor costs. The standard option will be an estimated \$195,468 while the enhanced option will cost an estimated \$351,636. Lastly, building on the work of the previous cohort, we provide insight into the benefits of dog parks and delve into two potential sources of funding: grassroots donations and larger partnerships. Below is our chosen site which can also be accessed in **Appendix E**:



Figure 1: Boone Road Dog Park Location

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Introduction and Background

Introduction and Problem Statement

Alief, situated in southwest Houston, is a diverse community with approximately 113,000 residents. It contains the ninth largest zip code in Houston, and an ethnic breakdown from the Alief Super Neighborhood Council of 45% Hispanic, 24% Non-Hispanic White, 22% Non-Hispanic Black, and 7% Non-Hispanic Asian.¹

Despite its considerable population, one notable unmet need which has been identified by the Alief community is the absence of an accessible,

communal dog park. This lack of a dog park is important especially considering the host of mental and physical benefits associated with them, promoting a healthy lifestyle for both dogs and their owners. Moreover, according to the guidelines of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD), each park sector should ideally have one dog park per 100,000 residents. However, in Alief's Park Sector 18, which encompasses 278,000 residents, there is currently no provision for a dog park. According to the 2023 Houston Parks

and Recreation Master Plan, Park Sector 18 has zero dog parks while estimates show it should currently have at least two. See **Appendix A** for the report.

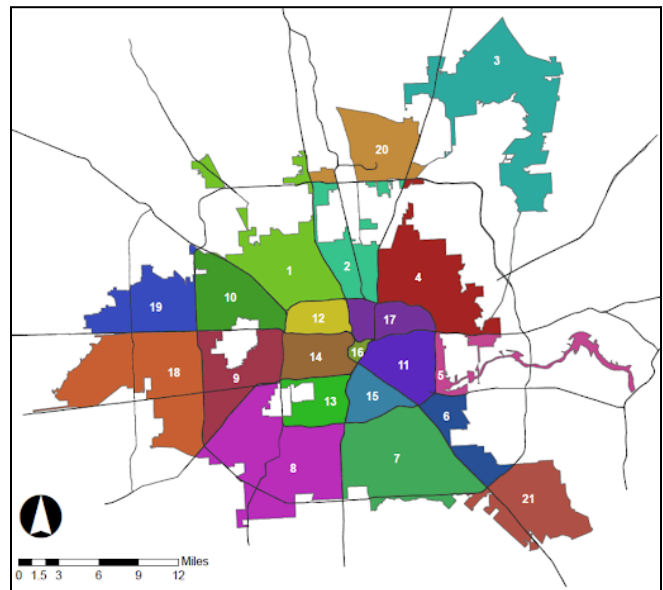


Figure 2: The 21 City of Houston park sectors per the 2014 HPARD Parks and Open Spaces Ordinance²

Established with the goal of improving living and working conditions for over 2 million residents in Greater West Houston, the West Houston Association (WHA) focuses on advancing

¹

https://www.houstontx.gov/planning/Demographics/2019%20Council%20District%20Profiles/Alief_Final.pdf

² <https://www.houstontx.gov/council/committees/qol/20141217/OpenSpacesOrd-HPARD-Presentation.pdf>

development, long term planning, and public policy initiatives. As part of their mission to enhance the quality of life for residents in the region, the WHA, working in collaboration with the Alief Super Neighborhood Council, has identified the necessity for a dog park. After considering factors such as shape, size, ownership, and existing amenities, a previous West Houston Association cohort pinpointed Boone Road Park as the ideal location, which is under the City of Houston's Management. This park, nestled in a residential neighborhood, possesses an ideal rectangular shape and boasts several attractive amenities. However, further work is needed to pinpoint a location within Boone Road Park, visualize the layout and features of the dog park, and provide a comprehensive budget proposal.

Project Steps

The following report aims to present findings and recommendations surrounding the realization of a dog park in Alief's Boone Road Park. As a part of this, we divide our project into three areas. The first area involves a discussion of our site visit to Boone Road Park and several other dog parks. For the former, we sought to understand Boone Road Park through several thorough site visits and compiling a list of key observations. For the latter, we sought to examine other dog parks in the Houston area and conduct case studies in terms of design and layout, amenities, maintenance, and lessons learned. Two such parks are Trebly Dog Park and Levy Dog Park. The second major area involved consulting with experts. As a part of this, we had extensive conversations with landscape architects who have designed dog parks in Houston as well as employees within the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. The third area involves our recommendations. First, the two conceptualized designs and cost proposals for a standard and enhanced dog park. Second, identified benefits of a dog park for a community and potential funding sources.

Approach and Findings

Site Visit Research

During our site visit to Boone Road Park, we conducted a comprehensive assessment to inform the decision-making process for the proposed addition of a dog park. Our observations and findings from the visit have significantly influenced our project design, considered amenities, and cost estimation plan. Below are the key insights gathered:



Figure 3: Map of Boone Road Park (See orientation in bottom right corner)

Drainage:

- Boone Road Park exhibits varying levels of drainage across its expanse. While the back of the park (the left-hand side of Figure 2) has a more robust drainage system, the front area (the right-hand side of Figure 2) is much more limited.
- Notably, the northeast corner of the park showed minimal levels of flooding due to a depression while the opposing southeast corner, which we plan to use, remained relatively unaffected.

Electricity:

- One initial concern for us was that certain parts of the park may lack access to electricity. Through our site visit, we determined there was sufficient electrical infrastructure throughout the park.
- Light poles were present throughout the park, including near the pavilion area, the center of the park, and sporadically alongside the pathway which runs throughout the park.
- Powerlines also run along the southern and western portions of the park. For the southern portion, they are adjacent to the church and outside the pre-existing fence. For the western portion, they run alongside the residential community next to the park.

Water Sources:

- Boone Road Park currently offers visitors access to water through water fountains.
- The primary water source is located near the pavilion in the northeastern section of the park, while a secondary source is situated towards the middle.
- Notably, there are no water sources towards the back of the park. If that location were to be used, more extensive water lines would have to be run from the secondary source

Terrain:

- The park features predominantly flat terrain with minimal variations, facilitating ease of construction.
- While the back portion of the park provides more open space, it is primarily designated for large field and sports activities.
- Existing park infrastructure is primarily located within the northeastern portion of the park as well as the middle, and the other areas are therefore prime for redevelopment.

Shade:

- The eastern and central portion of Boone Road Park is characterized by a denser collection of trees, providing natural shade and relief from the sun.
- The very northern portion of the park is also completely covered in trees.
- In contrast, the remaining areas of the park are more open, lacking substantial tree cover.

- Consideration of shade availability is crucial in determining the optimal placement of the dog park, as utilizing existing natural shade to keep dogs and dog owners comfortable is preferable.

Parking:

- Boone Road Park has existing parking that is sufficient to accommodate visitors.
- Even with the addition of a dog park, existing parking should be adequate to deal with an anticipated influx of new visitors.

These insights into drainage, electricity availability, water sources, terrain characteristics, shade distribution, and parking serve as crucial considerations in determining the optimal placement and design elements for the proposed dog park at Boone Road Park.

Case Studies: Trebly Dog Park and Levy Dog Park

In trying to determine what features and amenities to incorporate into our proposed dog park, we extensively examined similar dog parks in Houston which are around one acre. These include Trebly Dog Park and Levy Dog Park.

Levy Dog Park

Levy Dog Park, located in the Upper Kirby District neighborhood in Houston, Texas, was constructed as part of a \$15 million redevelopment plan spearheaded by the Upper Kirby Redevelopment Authority. This funding facilitated a two-year development effort for the entire park, led by OJB Landscape Architecture, resulting in the dog park officially opening in 2017. The dog park is fully enclosed within the park and is managed by the Houston Downtown Management District. Following reopening,

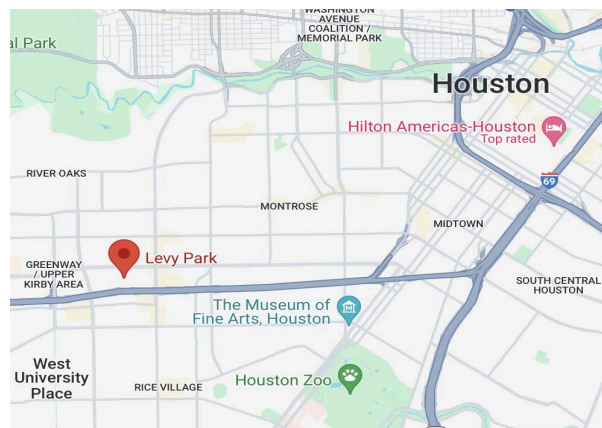


Figure 4: Location of Levy Park

Levy Park quickly became a key destination among Houstonians, partly due to its popular dog park.

The design of Levy Dog Park features a triangular shape, situated near the park's oval-shaped activity lawn. This layout optimizes the use of space within the park while also providing a dedicated area for dogs to play and socialize. The dog park is divided into two sections, allowing it to cater to both small and large dogs, and each section has the same kind of amenities. Access to these sections, as well as the dog park itself, is controlled by a double gate, preventing dogs from easily escaping while people enter or exit the area. Other notable features include turf-covered mounds of grass for dogs to run up and down on, strategically placed trees, surrounded by rip rap, for shade, and accessible cobblestone pathways which run throughout both sections. Moreover, Levy Dog Park boasts a wealth of amenities which are designed to cater to both pets and their owners. In terms of water, there are water fountains for hydration as well as circular drains that spray water when turned on, allowing dogs to play with them. The dog park also includes two legged benches scattered throughout both sections and waste stations equipped with bags and bins to promote cleanliness.

In terms of maintenance and sustainability, Levy Dog Park is managed by the Levy Park Conservancy, an example of a public-private partnership. As a part of this, the dog park closes once a month for scheduled maintenance and cleaning. Taking place on the second Tuesday of every month, the section for large dogs is closed from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and the section for small dogs is closed from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Trebly Dog Park

Trebly Dog Park, opened in early 2023 as part of the development of Trebly Park, was a project by the Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA). Situated within the cityscape of Downtown Houston, Trebly Park offers a vital space for dog owners to exercise their pets and socialize. Funded in part by additional revenue from the tax increment

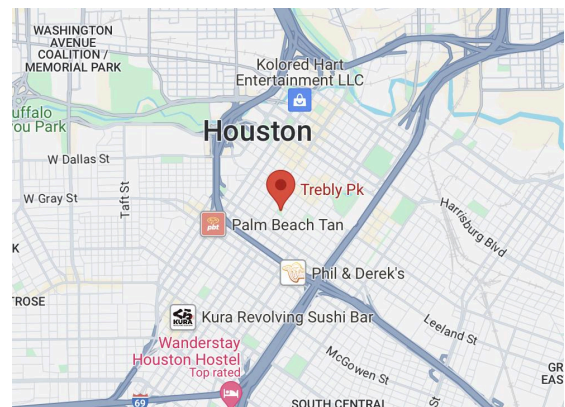


Figure 5: Location of Trebly Park

reinvestment zone in south downtown, the park’s redevelopment was intended to meet the needs of nearby residents.

The dog park itself was designed by Ruppert Landscapes which worked on hardscape, irrigation, and water management in collaboration with SYN Lawn Houston. The park boasts 4,530 square feet of “Pet Platinum” artificial grass, an innovative choice that prioritizes the health and comfort of dogs within the park. This material incorporates “super yarn” technology, effectively preventing odors and microbial growth while maintaining its vibrant color and condition amidst the dogs running around. The design of Trebly Dog Park also includes a division into two sections for small and large dogs, catering to the needs of both types. Fencing runs through the middle of the concrete pathway in the dog park, and both sections are accessible at the front through two-separate double-gated entries. The smaller dog park section is notably smaller, and the large dog area features an artificial-grass covered mound, offering an elevated terrain for dogs to run up and down.

In terms of amenities, Trebly Dog Park is equipped with a waste station equipped with bags and bins to promote cleanliness. The park also has two-legged benches along the fence for owners to sit at and socialize. In addition to the minimal amount of trees, the park also includes shade structures to accommodate visitors sitting at these benches. Moreover, both sections also have a water fountain, one for people and the other for dogs. Lastly, in terms of maintenance, the Houston Downtown Management District [Board Packet](#) includes a 2024 budget of \$45,000 for Trebly Park Utilities and \$25,000 for Repairs, Supplies, & Miscellaneous. However, it is important to note that this includes costs for the total park not solely the dog park.

Key Insights from Landscape Architects

To gain insight into amenities and features to incorporate into our dog park design, we reached out to different landscape architects who have designed dog parks in the Houston area. The two main architects we extensively engaged with were Scott Blons, a landscape architect at OBJ, and Lauren Griffith, a landscape architect at and founder of Lauren Griffith Associates. Below we have listed the key insights gained from these conversations:

Fence Design and Materials:

- At least 6 feet so dogs can't easily escape
- Galvanized as dog urine can erode fences if the right coating is not applied
- Include a concrete curb under the fence so dogs can't dig under and escape
- Don't line the perimeter of the fence with plants as people walking by might trample them while "dog watching"
- Materials can range from chain-link, which is the cheapest, to wrought iron picket fences and Design Master fences on the enhanced design proposal
- Include a double-gated fence feature so dogs can't escape while people enter or exit

Overall Design Aspects:

- Separate sections for smaller and larger dogs to ensure a safe environment
- Try to locate lighting poles outside the fence to minimize corrosion from dog urine
- Don't include other types of plants as dogs will trample and damage them
- Include an accessible pathway
 - Materials that work well include decorative gravel and decomposed granite
- Avoid natural materials such as mulch
 - These types of materials can get dogs dirty very easily
- Include trees for shade and place rip rap around them so dogs can't dig and damage them
- Artificial turf can be used but it requires periodic maintenance to minimize the smell
- Utilize topography to make the dog park more appealing
 - Simple mounds that dogs can run up and down are a simple addition
 - Consider making the mounds artificial turf as dogs can wear down the grass running up and down
- Make the design more linear than square or round so dogs have a large stretch to run
- For accessibility concerns
 - Try to connect the dog park to a pre-existing trail pathway
 - Ensure there is enough parking for people who want to visit
- Make sure to incorporate detention features into the design

Amenities:

- Include dog waste containers near the gates as well as trash cans
- Drinking fountains for dogs and people are a useful addition
- Include benches throughout the dog park so owners can sit down while dogs run around
 - If shade from trees isn't enough, considering adding shade structures
 - Benches are also important for the social aspect
- Include dog park rule signs
- Features like boulders for dogs to jump on and water spray features could be incorporated into an enhanced design proposal

City of Houston Minimum Requirements and Key Insights from Houston Parks and Recreation Department

Minimum Requirements for a Dog Park in Houston

Through extensive research and conversations with Houston Parks and Recreation employees, we have determined that there are currently no existing minimum requirements for dog parks in cities. While other cities have specific requirements to meet, Houston has no such ordinances. The only real requirements we would need to meet are surrounding the addition of specific structures, adding utility lines, and detention.

In light of this, we cover these aspects in our recommendation section for two proposals. Consequently, our primary emphasis has been on analyzing existing dog parks within Houston, discerning their characteristics, and using these insights to inform the design, features, and amenities of our proposed dog park.

Key Insights from Houston Parks and Recreation Department

In our exploration of Boone Road Park, we engaged with various City of Houston personnel, including individuals from the Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) and General Services Department (GSD). These people include Lisa Johnson, Charlotte Lusk, and Armando Pena. Through these conversations, we confirmed that Boone Road Park is under the ownership of the

City of Houston and falls under the management of HPARD. We were also provided with several important details pertinent to the construction of a dog park:

I. Dog Park Rating Criteria Form:

This tool aids HPARD in evaluating proposed dog parks against ten criteria, assigning ratings ranging from 1 to 5. The minimum required score for consideration is 30 while the maximum is 50. Through a preliminary analysis of the rating form, our proposed dog park would exceed the minimum score, reaching 43 points. A detailed breakdown of the evaluation can be accessed as part of the **Appendix B**.

II. Adopt-A-Dog Park Program Application:

Presently, due to budget constraints, there exists a moratorium on constructing new dog parks in Houston unless there is a partnership to cover maintenance costs. As a result, we envision an existing Alief community organization or a newly created conservancy assuming this role. Attached to this, HPARD currently has an application form which allows entities like homeowners associations and civic groups to provide long-term support for specific maintenance aspects of a dog park. The minimum requirement for sponsorship is 2 years, and the West Houston Association could reach out to different organizations to assist in specific aspects. This document can be found in **Appendix C**.

III. HPARD Maintenance Standards for Adopted Dog Parks:

This form outlines the essential guidelines and practices necessary for the upkeep and management of dog parks under the jurisdiction of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. The full criteria list can be found in **Appendix D**.

IV. Boone Road Master Plan

The master plan for redevelopment of Boone Road Park presents a strategic blueprint for enhancing the park's amenities and natural features to better serve the community. This proposed redevelopment plan primarily focuses on the enhancement of detention and riparian areas, addressing water management, flood control needs within the area, and nature. It also includes

the addition of several park amenities. As a part of this, the 2023 Houston Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan document includes mention of the Boone Road Park as one one three “Future Riparian Restoration Projects” in Park Sector 18. We believe our proposed dog park seamlessly integrates into this vision.

V. Other Important Information

- The biggest challenge for a dog park is maintenance
 - Smaller sized dog parks specifically face enhanced maintenance costs as more dogs are concentrated in a smaller area
- Attached to this, maintaining the health of the animals is essential
 - For smaller dog parks, a higher concentration of dogs in smaller areas can enhance the transmission of fleas, diseases, etc
 - Ensure access to fresh water supplies, spray for fleas and ticks, clean and maintain more frequently, and include waste bags throughout the area
- One maintenance aspect is maintaining natural grass
 - Dogs will be constantly running around and trampling the grass
 - Mud pits can also be created
- Most successful dog parks are subsidized or privatized in some way
- Shallow body of water for dogs (like ponds) often pose sanitary issues and have high associated maintenance needs
 - Spray features as present in parks like McWilliams Dog Park are preferred

Recommendations

Taking into account the previously-discussed findings, we identified an ideal location within Boone Road Park for the dog park. Then, we presented a standard dog park proposal and an enhanced dog park proposal. We attach the estimated costing proposals, made in collaboration with LJA’s Planning and Landscape Architecture Department, and preliminary basic conceptualized designs. Included in these cost proposals are site preparation costs, delivery and labor costs, and a 20% contingency fee to account for potential unforeseen incurred costs. Following this, we build on the work of the previous cohort in discussing the benefits of a dog

park and recommended potential sources of funding for the dog park. Finally, we end by recommending the next steps the West Houston Association should take.

Identified Location Within Boone Road Park

After thorough site evaluations and consideration of aspects to incorporate, we propose the southeast corner of Boone Road Park as the ideal location for our proposed dog park. The area boasts a flat terrain and an abundance of natural shade, benefitting visitors and eliminating the need for costs and time associated with planting and growing trees. For the former, last year's cohort identified a lack of shade in the western portion of the park as an issue, something which our proposed location seeks to remedy. Next, this location's proximity to the park's parking area ensures convenient access for visitors, eliminating the need for visitors to walk throughout the entire park to reach the dog park. Moreover, being adjacent to the park's primary water source as well as power minimizes the necessity for extensive utility installation. Lastly, the eastern portion of the park has a much better drainage system, limiting possible flooding risks for the dog park. A map of the proposed location within Boone Road Park can be found in **Appendix E**.

It is worthwhile to note that this proposed location within Boone Road Park may conflict with a proposed HPARD development plan, in which an "Alternate" feature is to relocate the volleyball courts (presently in the northeast area) to the southeast corner. However, considering the Alief Neighborhood Center is located nearby, we believe it is very feasible to instead get a dog park placed in this location.

Standard Dog Park Design Proposal

Features and Amenities

We recommend the following features for the standard cost proposal:

- Galvanized 6 feet chain-link fence
 - Includes concrete band under it
 - Around the dog park's perimeter and between the small and large dog sections
- Chain-link double gated fences
 - Main Entry Gates (4)

- Maintenance Gate (2)
- Dog waste stations with disposable bags (2)
- Two-legged Benches (2)
- Accessible decomposed granite pathway
- Irrigation System
- Dog Park Rule Signage (1)
- Detention Features

Conceptualized Design

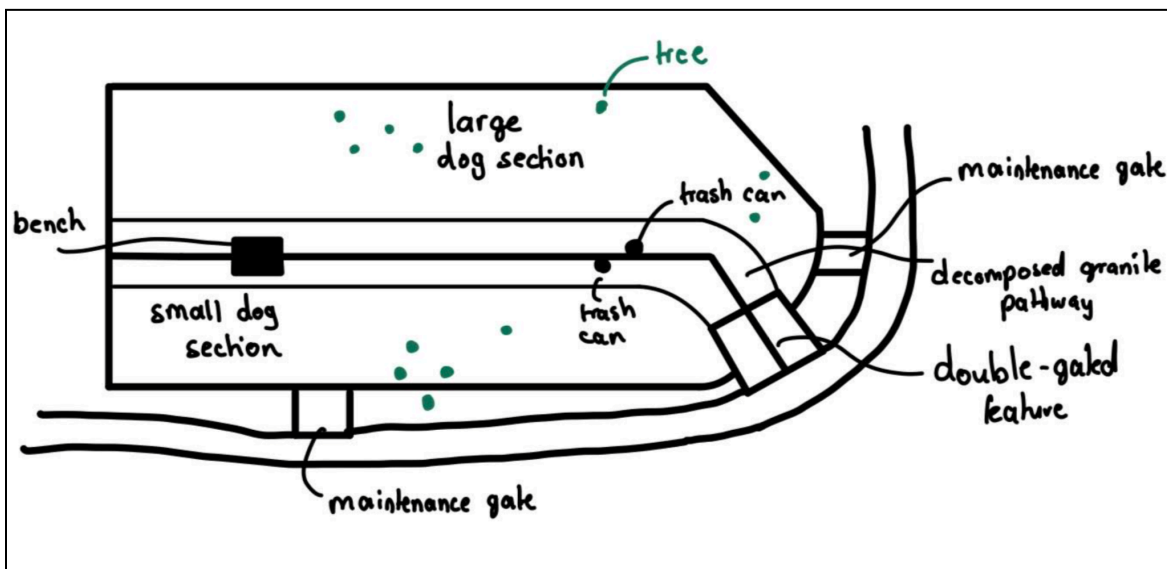


Figure 6: Conceptualized Standard Dog Park Design

Cost Proposal

As a part of our recommended features to incorporate, our proposed cost breakdown for the standard proposal, made in collaboration with LJA's Planning and Landscape Architecture Department, is listed below. Each aspect includes delivery and installation costs.

Hardscape					
Item	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost		Total
1 Decomposed Granite Concrete Band	60	LF	\$	40.00	\$ 2,400.00
2 Benches	2	EA	\$	2,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
3 Decomposed Granite	200	SF	\$	8.00	\$ 1,600.00
4 Dog Park Rule Signage	1	EA	\$	300.00	\$ 300.00
5 Dog Waste Station w/ Round Perforated Can & ONEpul Bag System	2	EA	\$	800.00	\$ 1,600.00
6 Fence	620	LF	\$	35.00	\$ 21,700.00
7 Main Entry Gates	4	EA	\$	4,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
8 Double Gate Entry for Maintenance	2	EA	\$	8,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Subtotal					\$ 63,600.00

Landscape					
Item	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost		Total
9 Fine Grading	1	LS	\$	10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
10 Irrigation Connection	1	EA	\$	15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
11 Irrigation (Area)	12,600	SF	\$	2.00	\$ 25,200.00
12 Hydroseed w/ Tackifier	7,600	SF	\$	0.25	\$ 1,900.00
13 Sod	5,000	SF	\$	2.20	\$ 11,000.00
Subtotal					\$ 63,100.00

Site					
Item	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost		Total
14 Mobilization	1	EA	\$	7,560.00	\$ 7,560.00
15 Rough Grading	1	EA	\$	5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
16 SWPPP Fence	200	LF	\$	3.00	\$ 600.00
17 Tree Protection Fence	300	LF	\$	5.00	\$ 1,500.00
18 Clearing and Grubbing	1	LS	\$	5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
19 Off-Site Disposal of Clearing and Grubbing Material	1	LS	\$	5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
20 Erosion Control	12,750	SF	\$	0.12	\$ 1,530.00
21 Detention Costs	1	LS	\$	10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Subtotal					\$ 36,190.00

Project Subtotal	\$ 162,890.00
20% Contingency Subtotal	\$ 32,578.00
Total	\$ 195,468.00

Figure 7: Full Cost Breakdown of the Standard Dog Park Design Proposal

Enhanced Dog Park Design Proposal

Features and Amenities

We recommend the following features for the enhanced cost proposal:

- Galvanized 6 feet Design Master fence
 - Includes concrete band under it
 - Around the dog park's perimeter and between the small and large dog sections
- Design Master double-gated fence
 - Main Entry Gates (2)
 - Maintenance Gate (1)
- Dog waste stations with disposable bags (2)
- Two-legged Benches (2)
- USA Shade Fabric Shade Structure (2)
- Drinking fountain with pet fountain (1)
- Accessible decomposed granite path
- Irrigation System
- Dog Park Rule Signage (1)
- Detention Features
- Mound (Berm)
 - Includes artificial turf
 - Includes concrete band around it

Conceptualized Design

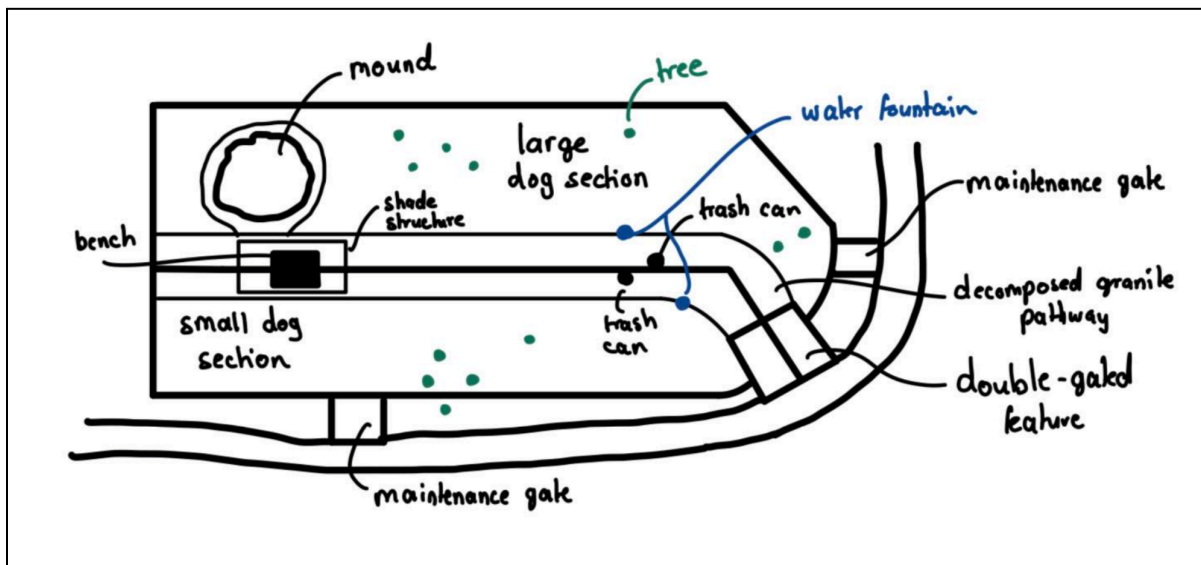


Figure 8: Conceptualized Enhanced Dog Park Design

Cost Proposal

As a part of our recommended features to incorporate, our proposed cost breakdown for the enhanced proposal, made in collaboration with LJA's Planning and Landscape Architecture Department, is listed below. Each aspect includes delivery and installation costs.

Benefits of a Dog Park

In bridging our two cost proposal recommendations with identified potential sources of funding, it is important to note that dog parks offer several distinct benefits to a community. While leveraging the last cohort's pitch strategy on "Alief's Story" it will be important to incorporate benefits. We delve into three specific ones:

- I. **Enhancing Community Well-Being:** Serving as a gathering place for dog owners, dog parks create and foster opportunities for socializing and community building. These shared spaces promote a sense of belonging among residents and contribute to a stronger and more connected community. Boone Road Park currently has a notable amount of visitors but we believe the addition of a dog park would substantially increase this amount, adding to the vibrant community.
- II. **Improving Quality of Life:** Dog parks provide an essential space for dogs to interact and develop healthy exercise habits. Especially for nearby apartment communities where dogs lack the ability to freely run outside, dog parks are essential. Through regular visits, dogs have the opportunity to explore, burn off excess energy, and play in a safe and controlled environment. Moreover, dog owners also have the opportunity to join in on the benefits of outdoor recreation and exercise. Dog parks therefore are mutually beneficial for dogs and dog owners, contributing to improved physical and mental well-being.
- III. **Boosting Property Values:** In the financial sense, dog parks can also have a positive impact on property values and neighborhood desirability. Communities with accessible and desired amenities like dog parks are desired by home buyers and renters. As a result, this proposed dog park could ultimately lead to increased demand and investment in the surrounding area, enhancing the overall neighborhood appeal.

Potential Sources of Funding

The last semester's cohort identified three main sources of potential funding for the dog park: grassroots, donations from large organizations, and grants. In expanding on the first two sources, and utilizing their narrative for fundraising, we list out specific examples of ways in which two of these three sources could be utilized.

Grassroots Funding:

We have selected two methods of funding that would involve interacting with the greater Alief Community and subsidizing aspects of the dog park: the Donate-A-Bench Program and a Pet Remembrance Tiles Program. We have detailed recommendations on how to implement these programs effectively to ensure engagement from the community. These include creating a website to share information as well as engaging in different forums to reach the Alief community. In addition, we recommend leveraging last year's funding recommendations.

I. Donate-A-Bench Program:

It's common practice for parks to offer community members the opportunity to pay tribute to family members or friends with benches. An example is Hermann Park. In our case, the implementation of a Donate-A-Bench Program presents an opportunity for members of the Alief community to leave a lasting legacy within the dog park at Boone Road Park. Through this program, individuals, families, and organizations can contribute to the enhancement of the park's amenities while commemorating loved ones or cherished pets. Each donated bench will feature a durable stainless steel plaque, showcasing the donor's personalized message or dedication. To recognize the generosity of donors, dedication ceremonies can be held at the dog park, providing an opportunity for donors and loved ones to unveil their dedicated bench. In our case, our cost proposal calls for two benches, allowing two community members to donate and dedicate a bench. If additional individuals want to donate, more benches could be added to the dog park under this program. Additionally, we estimate the cost of each bench at \$2,000, meaning the cost of the program can either align directly with these expenses or charge more.

II. Pet Remembrance Tiles Program

A second way to engage the community for fundraising efforts is through engraved sidewalk tiles. The implementation of a "Pet Remembrance Tiles Program" would serve as a meaningful complement to the Donate-A-Bench Program, offering an opportunity for people of all economic backgrounds to participate in the fundraising for the dog park. Participants in this initiative would be able to personalize tiles with names or custom messages, which would be prominently displayed within a designated portion of the park, such as the entrance pathway. The cost of

participating would vary depending on the size of the tile, accommodating a wide range of contributors and maximizing community involvement.

To facilitate the launch of this program, alongside the Donate-A-Bench Program, a dedicated website would need to be established to simplify the application process for interested people and groups. The website would detail the costs associated with the two programs as well as offer the opportunity for customization and sizing for the tiles. Secondly, the site would include other essential information on program policies, donation guidelines, maintenance procedures, and a contract information section to instill trust and confidence in potential donors. Lastly, the website should include the purpose of the dog park, highlighting Alief's story, and detailing the long-term vision of the park.

In addition to an online platform, promotional efforts should be deployed across various channels, including online community groups like the facebook groups of the Alief Super Neighborhood Council and Keep Houston Beautiful. Through these platforms, information about the programs can be disseminated, encouraging participation. By leveraging both digital and community-based outreach strategies, we aim to maximize awareness and engagement.

Larger Organizations and In-Kind Donations:

I. Surrounding Businesses

One way to raise funds for the project would be to collaborate with businesses in the surrounding Alief area. For example, reaching out and offering sponsorship opportunities for various aspects of the dog park, including waste stations, the shade structure, or the water fountain. In exchange for their sponsorship, businesses can receive recognition through signage, promotional materials, and posts on social media. Moreover, if businesses cannot support the dog park monetarily, they could also be offered the opportunity to provide in-kind contributions.

A few examples of businesses the West Houston Association could reach out to:

- Local Pet Stores: Fish N Pets Unlimited and City Pets
- Large organizations: Pet Stores: Petco and PetSmart

- IBC Bank
- HEB's Community Investment Program

II. Naming of the Dog Park

One specific example of collaborating with surrounding organizations and businesses would be offering naming rights for the dog park. Reaching out to organizations and doing so would present an opportunity to raise funds for the project's construction while also providing a lasting recognition opportunity for businesses and organizations. By allowing donors to put the name of their choosing to the dog park, a large contribution could be garnered for the park.

Naming rights could be structured in various ways to accommodate different levels of contribution, allowing for participation from a wide range of organizations. For example, a large donation could lead to naming rights for the entire park, while smaller donations could result in naming specific areas within the park, such as the entrance, seating area, and large/small dog sections. Furthermore, the naming process can involve a formal dedication ceremony, where donors, community members, and city officials come together to celebrate the unveiling. This event would not only recognize donors but also serve as a public demonstration of community support and engagement.

III. 50/50 Park Partners Program

The 50/50 Park Partners Program has successfully brought together local companies and community organizations to revitalize Houston parks. Through the Parks Dedication Fund, the City of Houston has committed millions of dollars to strengthening this private-public collaboration. The Boone Road Dog Park proposal is well-suited to gain support and visibility from 50/50 Park Partners, as Boone Road Park is a pre-existing park with a well-established community need for a dog park.

Next Steps

Taking into consideration everything above, we recommend the West Houston Association take the following steps moving forward:

- Choose between the standard and enhanced designs
 - Evaluate the trade off in cost and included amenities
 - It is important to note that the standard design is phaseable
 - Amenities can be added relatively easily and for a similar cost at a later date if additional funding is secured
- Find an Alief organization willing to manage the park's maintenance costs going forward or consider the creation of a park conservancy to do so
- Reach out to the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department and explore integrating a dog park into their potential redevelopment plan for Boone Road Park
- Evaluate potential sources of funding and create a pitch strategy building off of the established community need and the benefits of a dog park
 - Incorporate recommended sources of grassroots and donations from large organizations
 - Incorporate last semester's narrative of "Alief's Story" and risk mitigation plan

Appendix A

2023 Houston Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The 2023 Houston Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan can be found [here](#). Alief is located in Park Sector 18, for which the plan includes an amenities needs assessment (see Figure A1 below). According to the assessment, Park Sector 18 has an identified need for 2 dog parks, but 0 exist.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR AMENITIES IN PARK SECTOR

The table below shows the total existing amenities as of 2023 (HPARD properties) and the amenities needed based on population standards for each amenity using 2020 US Census Population. The last row shows the estimated number of amenities needed based on the H-GAC population projections for 2040.

AMENITY	PLAYGROUNDS	PICNIC PAVILIONS	TRAILS (MILES)	OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS	TENNIS	VOLLEYBALL	PICKLEBALL COURTS	DOG PARKS	SKATE PARKS	COMMUNITY CENTERS	SWIMMING POOLS	WATER SPRAY GROUNDS	BASEBALL (JT and UNIT)	SOFTBALL (JT and UNIT)	SOCCER (JT and UNIT)
2023 Existing	6	2	5.08	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0
2023 Needed	36	6	13	17	18	5	1	2	2	5	4	1	-	8	-
2040 Needed	15	6	12	5	6	1	1	1	-	2	1	1	2	2	-

Figure A1: Needs Assessment for Amenities in Park Sector 18

Appendix B

Dog Park Rating Criteria Form

The following Dog Park Rating Criteria Form (Figure B1) provided by Houston Parks and Recreation Department is useful for determining the viability of the Boone Road Dog Park proposal, as a score below 30 is unlikely to receive approval by the City of Houston. Our evaluation of Boone Road Dog Park results in a score of 43, which is explained in Figure B2.

Scoring Sheet Dog Park Site Selection Recommendation:		Ratings Scale:		5 = Ideal Conditions	4 = Exceeds Basic Criteria	3 = Meets Criteria
Criteria Description	Score = 1	Score = 3	Score = 5	2 = Minimally Meets Criteria, Not Optimal 1 = Does Not Meet Criteria		Rating
1. Size Dependent on proposed park location. Minimum Standard = ½ acre, but no less than ¼ acre	Less than ¼ acre	½ acre to 1 acre	greater than 2 acres			
2. Buffer from Residential Dwellings Ideally limit neighborhood disturbance to be consistent with typical park uses. Location should accommodate increased distance & vegetative buffer	50' or less than adjacent residents, and little opportunity for buffer	>100' from residents and moderate opportunities for buffer	>200' from residents and good opportunity for buffer			
3. Nonresidential adjacent Land Use Dependent on the type of business or institution. Dog park should be considered a benefit rather than an undesirable amenity.	Surrounding institution/business does not consider dog parks compatible with its mission/constituency	A dog park would be neutral for the surrounding institution or business	An adjacent dog park would be a positive addition to the surrounding institution or business			
4. Drinking Fountain Highly desirable within or adjacent to dog park area	No drinking water available on site; would be expensive/difficult to provide water	Drinking Fountain and/or water service available on site; but outside of dog park	Drinking fountain available within proposed dog park area			
5. Parking Dependent upon proposed park location. Minimum Standard = ½ acre, but no less than ¼ acre	Onsite parking currently does not exist; site too small to accommodate parking lot	On-site parking not currently existing; site can accommodate parking lot	Existing park lot on site can accommodate dog park			
6. Land Suitability Relatively flat topography, permeable soils, design to minimize erosion potential, protection for water bodies, good visibility through site	Excessive slopes, impermeable soils, and high erosion potential	Moderately flat, moderate visibility, moderately permeable soils	Primarily flat, good drainage, permeable soils, good visibility			
7. Shade Highly desirable; Site provides good mix of shade/mature trees and open space/turf grass	No trees on site; full sun	Some trees on site; smaller trees don't provide much shade	Mature trees; good mix of shade and open space			
8. Use Conflict Avoidance Avoid placing dog park in area that would conflict with or displace desired active passive activities	Dog park would conflict with existing and/or planned park uses/amenities	Existing and/or planned park use would not be impacted by proposed dog park	Dog park would complement existing and/or planned park use			
9. Protect Natural Areas Should not be located in close proximity to high quality natural areas to limit disturbance of nesting birds, small mammals, native plants	Site within 50' at high quality natural area	Natural area > 100' from proposed dog park area	No natural area at site			
10. Geographic Distribution Located such that there is equitable distribution to dog parks in the City	Within ¼ mile of an existing dog park; Well served by dog park	Within a mile of an existing dog park; Moderately well served	Equal distance from other dog parks in unserved area of City			
<i>Highest Score Attainable - 50 point; Minimal Score for Consideration is 30; Eliminate as possibility <30 points</i>				Total Score		0

Figure B1: Dog Park Rating Criteria Form

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
Size	3	The proposed dog park is between ½ and 1 acre in size
Buffer for Residential Dwellings	5	Dog park location is over 200 feet from residents and there is good opportunity for buffer
Nonresidential Adjacent Land Use	4	The immediately surrounding institution is Boone Road Park trail, followed by a church, playground, and a smaller park which are all at least 230 feet away
Drinking Fountain	5	Drinking fountain is located within proposed area
Parking	5	The 50 parking spots in Boone Road Park can accommodate the parking needs of dog park-goers.
Land Suitability	5	Location of dog park is visible, mostly flat, with good drainage
Shade	4	A few large trees in dog park location can provide decent shade
Use Conflict Avoidance	4	Location of the dog park does not conflict with any <i>current</i> uses—thanks to Boone Road Park’s sizeable acreage—but it slightly conflicts with (and greatly complements) <i>planned</i> park use
Protect Natural Areas	3	There is natural areas near the dog park, however, they are over 100 feet away
Geographic Distribution	5	Dog park serves a community (Alief/Park Sector 18) that is sorely lacking any dog park in its vicinity
Total	43	

Figure B2: Boone Road Dog Park Evaluation Score Breakdown

Appendix C

Adopt-A-Dog Program Application

See the application in greater detail [here](#).

ADOPT-A-DOG PARK - BLANK Program Application

Thank you for your interest in the Adopt-A-Dog Park Program. We value your stewardship of our precious resources. Please tell us about your organization and your plans for the dog park you wish to adopt.

Name of Park: _____

Address: _____

Group/Business: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Number of people actively involved in your Adopt-A-Park project? _____

Please check the activities your organization is interested in performing in the park:

√ Box	Task	Frequency	√ Box	Task	Frequency
	De-littering	Every 3 days		Replace mulch	Yearly
	Maintain Doggie Station clean and with supplies	As needed		Maintain shrubs / bushes – watered & trimmed	As needed
	Mow & Edge grassy areas	Mar–Nov Every 14 days & Dec-Feb once a month		Power wash fixtures, features, hardscape	
	Other Improvements (Project description & timeline): (Requires HPARD approval)				

*** Please attach a detailed description & plan(s) for capital improvement projects.**

Proposed Start Date: _____ Proposed End Date**:
****Minimum three-year commitment, please.**

Please submit this completed application to:

**Marilu De La Fuente
Adoption Program Administrator
Parks and Recreation Department
2999 S. Wayside
Houston, TX 77023**

Signed: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Information: 832-395-7029

Completion of this form does not constitute approval to proceed with planned projects. Your application will be reviewed and you will receive a response within 30 days. Adoption of a park or sports field shall not connote the transfer of public parks and/or park spaces to any community, corporate or individual, for private or commercial use. The adopted park or field shall continue to be open to all citizens and visitors of Houston.

Revised 12/10/03

Figure C1: Adopt-A-Dog Park Application Form

Appendix D

HPARD Maintenance Standards for Dogs

See the form in greater detail [here](#).

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS FOR ADOPTED DOG PARKS / PARK LAND

To keep to all City of Houston dog parks clean, aesthetically pleasing and in line with HPARD Standards, the following guidelines apply:

All dog parks are to be kept as free as possible of all trash, litter, fallen limbs, dog waste, and other debris. Trash and litter shall not be allowed to collect unchecked within the dog park or along the interior or exterior fence lines. It is solely the responsibility of the adopting party to ensure that the dog park area is maintained according to standards listed herein.

1. Dog waste and all types of trash and litter should be properly removed on a regular basis. City ordinance requires that pet owners be responsible for cleaning up waste left by their own pets. Since compliance is seldom ever 100%, the adopting party is responsible for picking up and properly disposing of all trash and litter including dog waste at least every 3 days. Doggie waste station receptacle(s) should be restocked with supplies and emptied on a regular basis.
2. Any areas of turfgrass shall be mowed a minimum of every 14 days during the growing season (March-November). From December to February mowing should occur once per month or as needed. Edging and trimming should be done as needed to keep weeds neatly trimmed from fence lines, fixtures, and furnishings.
3. Power washing fixtures, features and hardscapes should occur once per year.
4. The adopting party should submit repair requests to the respective Division Manager.
5. Proposed changes to the dog park must be approved by the designated HPARD Deputy Director. The dog park size will not be allowed to expand. Benches, furniture, equipment may not be installed nor removed without prior HPARD approval.
6. Designated HPARD staff will always have right-of-entry to check for compliance with standards.

FAILURE TO MEET STANDARDS

Failure to meet the established standards will result in the following:

1. Notice will be given by phone, e-mail, or in person. Thereafter, the adopting group will have 2 weeks to get the dog park back into compliance. If, at the end of 2 weeks, the dog park is not in compliance, a meeting will be scheduled between the designated HPARD representative and the adopting party.
2. If the dog park becomes unkept a second time within 12 months revocation of the adoption may occur. If another adopting party is not secured to replace the prior, the department may meet to determine the discontinuation of the site as a dog park.

Figure D1: Maintenance Standards for Dog Parks Memo

Appendix E

Identified Location Within Boone Road Park

We identify the southeast corner of Boone Road Park as the ideal location for the proposed dog park:

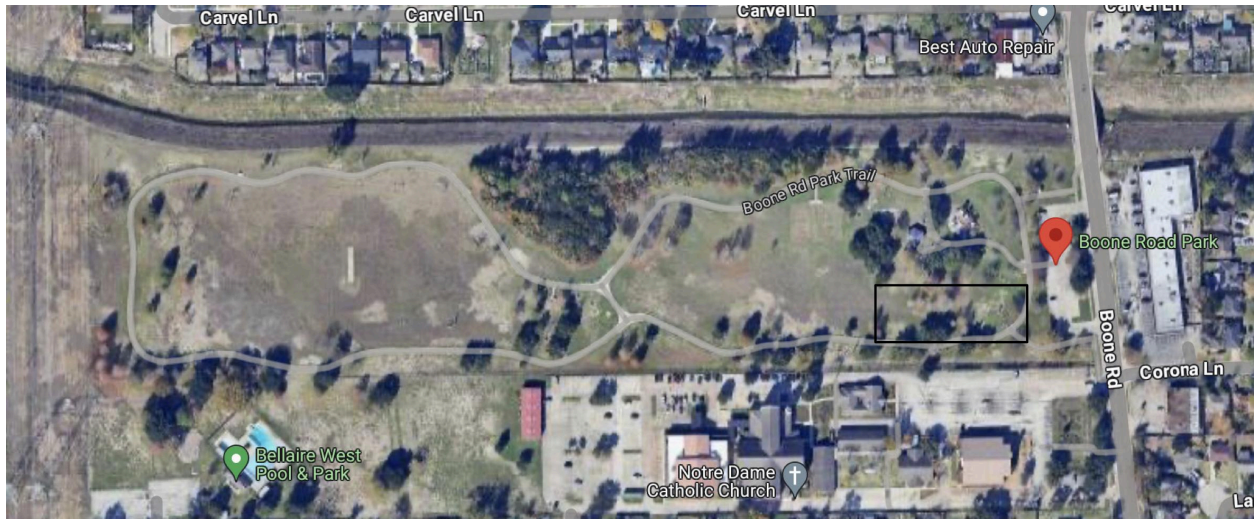


Figure E1: Proposed Location for Alief's Dog Park