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1 WHEREAS, Off Leash Dog Exercise Areas for dogs tend to attract regular  
2 visitors and provide valuable community-building opportunities for dog  
3 owners; and

4 WHEREAS, veterinary professionals agree that dogs which are exercised  
5 and socialized regularly are better neighbors and exhibit fewer behavioral  
6 problems; and

7 WHEREAS, the provision of Off Leash Dog Exercise Areas for dogs is an  
8 established amenity that is gaining popularity across the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, the establishment of an Off Leash Dog Exercise Area for large  
10 dogs and for City approved events displaying the skills of canines will benefit  
11 the quality of life of the residents of the City promoting tourism; and

12 WHEREAS, Policies BG1, B1 and B12 of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County  
13 Comprehensive Plan states that the City is to prepare Park Planning and  
14 Development Guidelines. The design of parks and other open areas shall  
15 incorporate multi-functional use of resources and compatible facilities,  
16 maintenance and landscaping appropriate to the location, function, public  
17 expectations and intensity of use, integration into residential design for easy  
18 accessibility and orientation to encourage use and lighting, site design, or  
19 other methods to minimize vandalism. The City is to include a wide variety of  
20 recreational resources in park design; and

21 WHEREAS, the Off Leash Dog Exercise Area policies are for the betterment  
22 of the community and were developed by a committee composed of citizens  
23 and staff.

24 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF**  
25 **ALBUQUERQUE:**

26 Section 1. The following policies are established for Off Leash Dog  
27 Exercise Areas:

28 Policy 1. DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES

29 Development procedures, design guidelines, location criteria and space  
30 criteria for Off Leash Dog Exercise Areas are to be set forth in Administrative  
31 Instruction.

32 Policy 2. IDENTIFICATION OF OFF LEASH DOG EXERCISE AREA  
33 LOCATIONS

1 A committee of citizens and staff have identified a list of potential sites for Off  
2 Leash Dog Exercise Parks that do not displace current activities within parks  
3 and are located throughout the City to provide reasonable travel times from all  
4 points within the City. The Administration shall communicate to the City  
5 Council by December 31, 2004, a list of at least 6 designated Off Leash Dog  
6 Exercise Areas. If the Administration is unable to identify 6 such areas by that  
7 date they shall submit a list of areas that are eligible and proceed to identify  
8 other areas and communicate a list of these areas by June 30, 2005.

9 **Policy 3. MAINTAINING EXISTING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

10 As Off Leash Dog Exercise Areas are implemented into a park the City will not  
11 displace existing activities already provided in the park.

12 **Policy 4. NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT FOR OFF LEASH DOG EXERCISE**  
13 **AREAS**

14 When existing parks are renovated and new parks are planned, the inclusion  
15 of an Off Leash Dog Exercise Area is to be provided as an option during the  
16 public input process pertaining to the development or renovation of the park.

17 **Policy 5. FUNDING DEVELOPMENT OF OFF LEASH DOG EXERCISE**  
18 **AREAS**

19 Funding for the design and construction of Off Leash Dog Exercise Areas  
20 should occur through those means established for park development  
21 including but not limited to impact fees, developer dedications, public  
22 improvement districts, City general obligation bonds and federal, private and  
23 state grants, or any other means acceptable to the City.

24 **Policy 6. MAINTENANCE OF OFF LEASH DOG EXERCISE AREAS**

25 The City of Albuquerque shall be responsible for maintenance and upkeep of  
26 Off Leash Dog Exercise Areas. If the City exercises the option to provide for  
27 the expense, by imposing a fee and prior to imposing such fee the Office of  
28 Internal Audit shall conduct a cost analysis of the task and associated costs to  
29 determine a per acre cost for maintenance of Off Leash Dog Exercise Areas  
30 versus per acre cost for maintenance of neighborhood parks. This would  
31 establish the basis for value of the fee. The Department overseeing  
32 maintenance of Off Leash Dog Exercise Areas shall include such expenditures

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1 in their annual budget and shall develop appropriate performance measures to  
2 gauge the effectiveness of this activity.

3 Policy 7. LARGE OFF LEASH DOG EXERCISE AREAS

4 The administration shall provide by December 1, 2004 a study identifying a  
5 tract of land on City owned property in the East Mountain Area that is  
6 scheduled for sale and a tract of land on City owned property west of the City  
7 Limits, scheduled for sale. These lands are to be designated as Large Off  
8 Leash Dog Exercise Areas. The Open Space Division shall identify the land  
9 best able to serve such a function with the least impact to the goals and  
10 objectives of the open space program. The Administration by December 1,  
11 2005 shall issue a plan for the operation of these areas and assign  
12 responsibility to the Department best able to manage such a facility. If the land  
13 is not sold, Open Space is to be reimbursed by the appropriate user  
14 Department, for the land no later than Fiscal Year 2006. The Open Space  
15 Division may continue to market the land for sale until such time as funding is  
16 committed in the City Budget or by other means to reimburse the Open Space  
17 Trust fund for the land for use as a Large Off Leash Dog Exercise Area.

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