

To:

Councilmember Traci Park

Los Angeles City Council, District 11

Mayor Karen Bass

Office of the Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Jimmy Kim, General Manager

Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

**Re: Request for Designation of Oakwood Recreation Center Park as a People-Only, No-Pet Park**

Dear Councilmember Park, Mayor Bass, and General Manager Kim,

The Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) respectfully submits the attached motion requesting that the City of Los Angeles designate Oakwood Recreation Center Park as a People-Only, No-Pet Park in order to protect public safety, preserve field quality, and ensure that this important community resource is able to fulfill its intended recreational purpose.

Oakwood Recreation Center Park serves one of the most active and diverse areas in Venice, providing essential open space for children, youth sports, seniors, and families. However, due to ongoing lack of enforcement of leash laws, the park has increasingly become a de facto off-leash dog park, resulting in:

- Safety risks for children, families, and seniors
- Turf damage that compromises youth sports and recreation programs

- Frequent presence of dog feces throughout the playing fields
- Conflicts between permitted athletic use and off-leash dog activity

This situation is particularly concerning because community members already have access to two nearby designated off-leash dog parks: Westminster Off-Leash Dog Park (½ mile away) and Airport Park Dog Park (1 mile away). These facilities provide appropriate alternatives for dog owners, while Oakwood Recreation Center Park remains one of the few large open grassy areas available for youth and community recreation.

For these reasons, the VNC urges the City to:

1. Designate Oakwood Recreation Center Park as a People-Only, No-Pet Park, with the standard ADA accommodation for service animals;
2. Install clear signage communicating this designation;
3. Provide appropriate enforcement by RAP Park Rangers or other personnel; and
4. Inform the public about nearby off-leash alternatives at Westminster Park and Airport Park.

Additionally, the VNC will be filing a Community Impact Statement (CIS) with the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners in support of this request.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your continued commitment to supporting safe, vibrant, and equitable parks in the Venice community. We look forward to collaborating with your offices to ensure that Oakwood Recreation Center Park remains a well-maintained, family-friendly recreational space for all residents.

Sincerely,

Brian Averill

President, Venice Neighborhood Council

or

Tima Bell

Secretary, Venice Neighborhood Council

Attachments:

1. VNC Motion: Designation of Oakwood Recreation Center Park as a People-Only, No-Pet Park
2. Community Impact Statement (CIS)