

Eagle River/Chugiak Dog Parks Site  
Selection Study  
Community Open House #1  
5-24-18

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# Initial Candidate Sites

- Firehouse Lane – Eagle River Core
- Loretta French Park ball field
- Peter's Creek Parcel
- Beach Lake Park
- ¼ Section of Section 25



# Evaluation

- ✓ Needs identified by 2017 survey of area residents
- ✓ Site visits conducted by R&M and Parks and Recreation
- ✓ Parks Board of Supervisors review candidate sites for feasibility

Two sites were selected for further design evaluation as part of this study:

- **Firehouse Park to serve the Eagle River core area**
  - Existing conditions support small community dog park with pedestrian access
- **Peter's Creek Park Parcel to serve the northern areas of the community**
  - Large parcel with topography and site features to support a larger dog park

Three sites were eliminated from further design evaluation as part of this study:

- **Beach Lake Park**
  - Parcel is bisected by Alaska Railroad Tracks
    - Use conflict, safety concerns, limited options for parking and dedicated trails due to Railroad right-of-way.
  - Existing dog mushing activities in the area
- **Loretta French Park**
  - User conflicts
  - Limited existing mitigation for conflicts
- **NW ¼ Section of Beach Lake Park**
  - In early stages of park planning (for multiple user groups)
  - A community vision for the entire park should be determined before dedication of a dog use area

# Findings to Date

Nearly **84%** of respondents expressed high interest in having a dog park in Eagle River, with nearly **half** willing to walk to the Fire House Lane location if parking is not available.



The local parks board is considering developing a dog park at Fire House Lane and Eagle River road. The area that is being considered is roughly 270' x 112', or about 5/8 of an acre.  
(329 responses)



75% were in favor of a dog park at the Fire House Lane location.

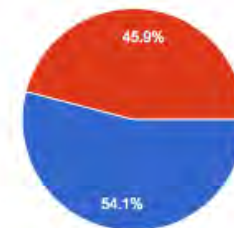
# Findings Continued

Of the roughly 11% of responses (37 responses) who were *not* in favor of a dog park at the Fire House Lane location, over half still liked the idea of having a dog park in the Eagle River/Chugiak Area, just not at the Fire House Lane location.

## Not ready for a Dog Park here?

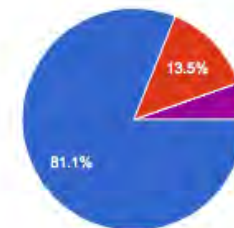
Do you like the idea of having a dog park in the Eagle River/Chugiak area, just not at this location?

(37 responses)



- Yes, I'd like a dog park somewhere in the area, just not here.
- No. I don't feel that dog parks are needed in the area.

Which of the following best describes where you live? (37 responses)



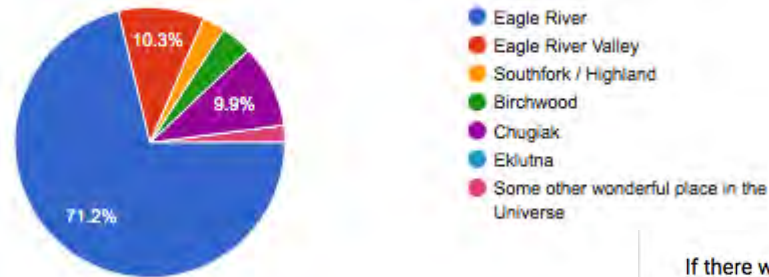
- Eagle River
- Eagle River Valley
- Southfork / Highland
- Birchwood
- Chugiak
- Ekiutna
- Some other wonderful place in the Universe

# Factors Considered

1. Location
2. Size and Adjacent Existing Uses
3. Safety
4. Maintenance

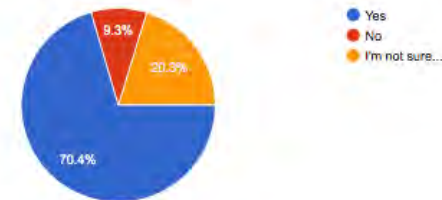
# Factor 1: Location

Which of the following best describes where you live? (292 responses)

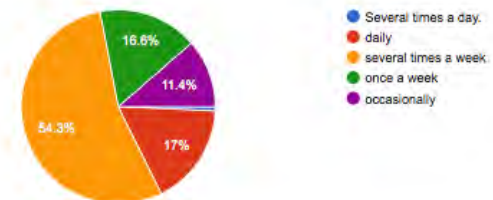


Dog parks at both a walkable location for Eagle River core area residents and a convenient drive-to location for both Eagle River Core and Chugiak-Birchwood area residents is desirable.

If there were a dog park 5 miles from here where you could park your car and walk 500 ft to the dog enclosure, would you be more likely to use that park? (291 responses)



How often would you use this park, if developed? (289 responses)



# Walkable: Firehouse Park

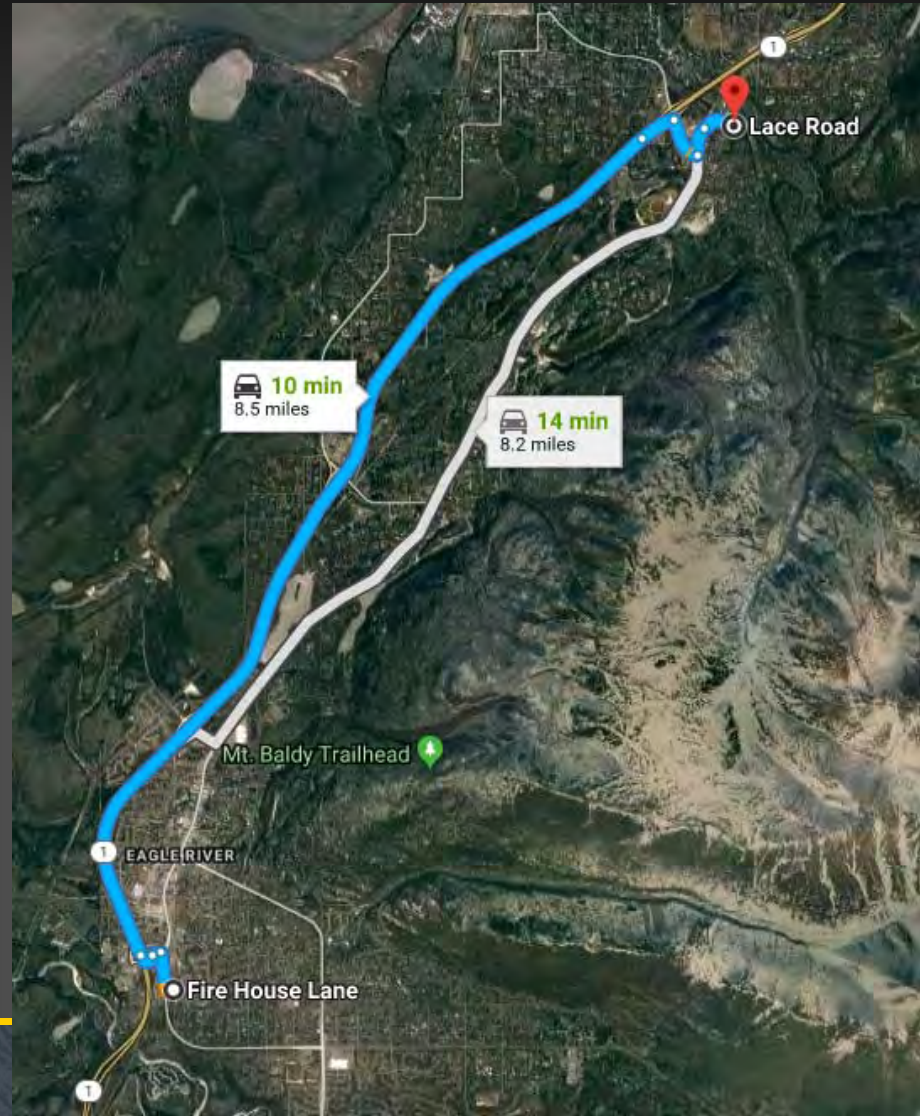
- Firehouse Lane: walkable within Eagle River Core (1/4 mile to 1/2 mile walkshed)





# Drive-to: Peters Creek Park

- Located approximately 8.5 miles north of Eagle River Core
- Lower development area
- Adjacent to existing park

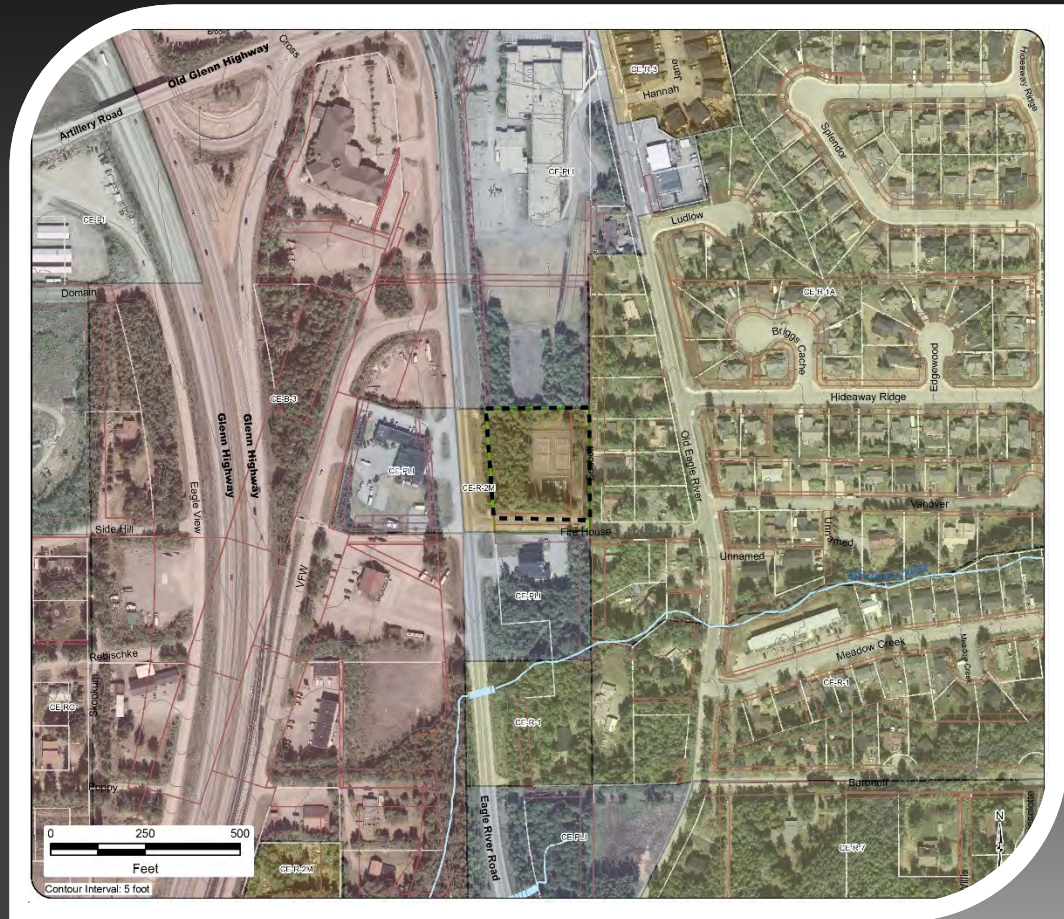


## Factor 2: Size and Adjacent Existing Uses

- Owners of larger dogs will likely prefer larger, 'wide open space' parks
- Small dog owners may be satisfied with a smaller, fenced in location
- The land use of surrounding properties should be compatible with the addition of a dog park.
  - Innovative design and proper planning can provide buffering between the dog park and existing adjacent uses.
  - For residential areas, buffers should allow for neighbors to have no more disturbances from a dog park than other typical park uses.

# Firehouse Park

- 1.8 acres
- Established perimeter and sidewalk access
- 2 Tennis courts
- Parking Lot
- Adjacent to residential, school



# Example Concept for Firehouse Park



## SITE FEATURES LEGEND

### ENTRYWAY

- \* SHARED UNLEASHING AREA FOR SMALL AND LARGE DOG AREAS
- \* DOUBLE GATED FENCING
- \* CONCRETE SURFACING
- \* DOG PARK RULES SIGNAGE

### PERIMETER

- \* 4' HIGH ORNAMENTAL FENCING
- \* BUFFER PLANTINGS
- \* REMOVE (2) TREE STUMPS

### SMALL DOG AREA

- \* +/- 60' x 80'
- \* (EX) TREES
- \* STABILIZED FINES WALKWAY
- \* SAND OR LOOSE FINES PLAY AREA
- \* ARTIFICIAL TURF
- \* BOULDER GROUP SEATING
- \* PET FOUNTAIN
- \* MUTT MITT DISPENSER
- \* WASTE RECEPTACLE

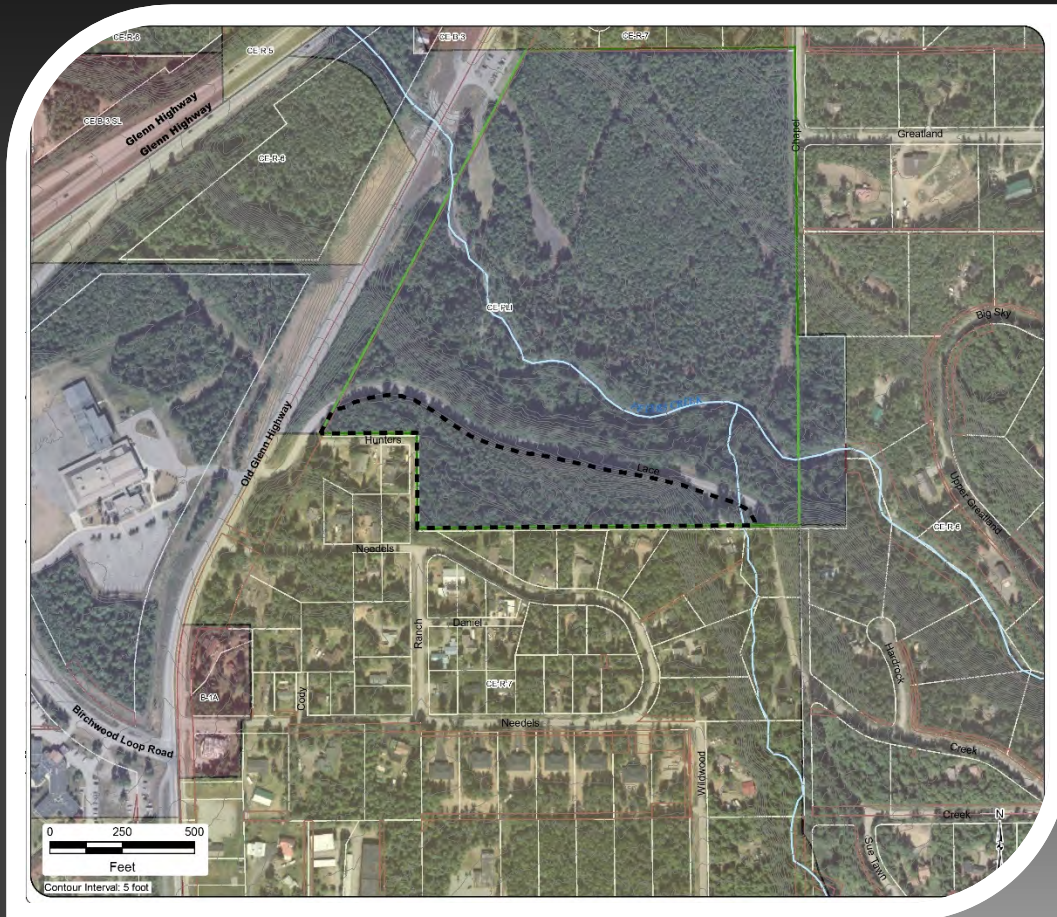
### LARGE DOG AREA

- \* +/- 80' x 180'
- \* THREE (3) (EX) TREES TO BE REMOVED
- \* (EX) TREES
- \* STABILIZED FINES WALKWAY
- \* SAND OR LOOSE FINES PLAY AREA
- \* ARTIFICIAL TURF
- \* TWO (2) PICNIC TABLES & BENCHES
- \* ADD (2) PICNIC TABLES & BENCHES ELSEWHERE IN PARK
- \* BOULDER GROUP SEATING
- \* PET FOUNTAIN
- \* MUTT MITT DISPENSER
- \* WASTE RECEPTACLE

Note:  
Vegetative  
buffering and  
landscape  
planning as  
design  
intervention

# Peters Creek Park

- 6.7 acres
- Currently underused
- Topography supports off-lease “wide open space” dog park
- Adjacent to residential



## Factor 3: Safety

- When considering the initial 5 candidate sites for further study, the project team and Parks Board of Supervisors evaluated the safety of each site.
  - The Beach Lake Park site is not particularly safe considering the Alaska Railroad Tracks, existing use by dog mushing teams, and more remote location.
  - The Firehouse Park site could be ADA accessible with little design needed, and is 'policed' by the community already given its proximity to the elementary school.

## Factor 4: Maintenance

Feasibility of ongoing maintenance and waste disposal is key to the success of dog parks.

- Access to trash receptacles, driveways for maintenance vehicles, and proximity to the core area are all factors that help a limited staff keep the parks maintained and clean.

# How do we make this work?

With strategic planning and design interventions.

- One strategy to mitigate concern regarding potential disruption from the Firehouse Park site will be to plan for opening BOTH the Firehouse Park and Peters Creek Park concurrently.
- This will allow for split use between the different types of users/dog owners discussed.



## Example Costs from Engineer's Estimates

- \$10K per parking spaces or \$100K for 10
- Parking lot lighting with 12 Poles: \$50K
- Fencing: 50 per LF for chain link or cedar
  - Example: Valley of the Moon Dog Park \$12K for materials
- Trash cans: \$1500 each for bear proof cans + bags
- Signs + poles: \$1000 each
- Vehicle gates: \$5000 each
  
- **Change of use costs:** ~\$10K (Loretta French Park) to ~\$500K+ (Peters Creek Parcel)

# Next Steps + Timeline

## ✓ Phase I

Completed with this Open House

## Phase II

- Site Specific Planning + Design
- Construction



# Questions + Comments?

