

September 7, 2007

Mayor Galambos and Councilmembers of the City of Sandy Springs

Subject: Proposal to create a dedicated dog park at Ridgeview Park

Dear Mayor Galambos and Councilmember;

The Sandy Springs Council of Neighborhoods wishes to offer these comments regarding the dog park proposed for the existing facility at Ridgeview Park in the southern part of Sand Springs. A park facility dedicated to dogs or other pets could be appropriate in the more urban portions of the City where residents may not have space at their homes for their pets to exercise. The large-lot, single family residential nature of this area seems inappropriate for this dedicated activity. Will the residents of this general area even use the park in this way?

The introduction of this additional use for such a small park will unnecessarily burden the residents of this area with additional noise and traffic congestion. Does the City plan to open more area in this park and provide more parking for this additional use? How will the City deal with the repeated sewer overflows that occur there? Will there still be space available for the local residents without expanding the cleared area of the park? These are issues that will involve considerable additional cost to address.

Isn't it preferable that such space be available within walking distance of homes rather than requiring owners to drive their pets to a park so they can exercise! Surely you must be joking?

It seems more appropriate that the City focus its limited resources available for parks at this time first on completing parks planned for the tax-paying residents. We understand that the parks being planned along Abernathy Road, which could provide a more appropriate location for a pet dedicated space, will not be completed for some 5 years under the current funding plan. That space is more centrally located to multi-family areas where the need could be justified and most likely exists. The park growing at Morgan Falls also is a better candidate for such a dedicated use and can accommodate more cars if necessary.

We ask that you reconsider your plan to place a dedicated dog/pet park at Ridgeview Park. Please consider utilizing the limited resources available for such a park in a more central location where the most residents could have the benefit of its use. Ridgeview Park is not that place.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Springs Council of Neighborhoods

Larry Young, President