

Are there issues related to a dog park at this locatin that concern you?

Please consider small park runs all around A2. Less stress to any one neighborhood and walkable access.

City cries about deer eating natural vegetation and then want a dog park trashing a city park. What hypocrites!

I would also be open and supportive if the city considered limited off-leash times in other parks. They could occur during limited park use (i.e. 6:30 - 7:30 am and 9 - 10 pm), still require that dogs are licensed and/or consider a separate temperament test be passed, and of course require clean up from their pet. This would allow people within a neighboring community the chance to come together, allow their dogs to reap the benefits of socialization and exercise and would limit the damage to the ground of the off-leash parks (often turning to mud).

The issue I have with all of the A2 dog parks are that they are too small. I don't often use them because of this and I wish I could. They don't allow people & dogs to be able to get away from a problematic dog. Not all dogs get along with eachother & older dogs are less likely to want to play, they're more likely to want to greet & then keep walking. The problem w/the small parks is you're stuck just standing there. There's no room to walk/hike. It would be great if we could take over a former landfill space or an underused park (Bird Hill?) and make a dog park that has many acres and can be developed into a trail system for humans and off-leash for pets. Dane County, Wisconsin (Madison) has incredible dog parks - in the city of Madison there's an off-leash dog park that's over 50 acres. Outside of Madison, there's a fenced dog park that is over 100 acres of off-leash area and hiking trails. I would LOVE it if Ann Arbor could find land and do something like this. They are enormously popular. Here's a link:

https://www.countyofdane.com/lwrp/parks/prairie_moraine.aspx

Size. Seems kind of small

Please don't use the clay-like granules that were used to keep mud down at Olson Park. When wet, it sticks to the dog's paws, which they then track into the car/house. Worse, when dry, it sends up a cloud of dust that the dogs inhale...not good for them or their people, esp since we don't even know what it is. ***Please*** use pea gravel instead.

This is a very good idea, and I am in favor of a dog park at this location.

Too far downtown, the west side has nothing and has more spaces available.

This location is within walking distance of lots of folks so I think the current parking (old softball) would be adequate.

To man large holes at swift run where water collects. Still water in this park is very bad for the dogs! They drink it and it makes them sick. It would be nice if there is a fountain for dogs to drink clean water!!

Instead of continuing to try to find another site, I'd rather see the current dog parks maximized for trees/water/benches/ and all the other items stated for an ideal dog park.

The ability for locals to walk their dog to the park vs. driving a distance to the park are important aspects

Might be difficult for me to get to easily so I would use it only occasionally..

I have no problems or concerns about more dog parks being made in Ann Arbor. I think its a bit ridiculous for others to complain, especially when its area that is not being used or is park-land. Dog parks provide a nice, green, open space and a good place for the community to come together. The other dog parks have clear rules and generally bring together nice dogs and nice owners.

They need to model Saline's Mill Pond Park and make it beautiful and restful. Also stop charging outrageous fees.

Where is the money going to come from?

Impact of runoff of dog feces into the River

I notice that ducks and geese congregate on the banks of the river in this park during spring, summer, and fall. Will having a dog park here affect the habitat of the ducks and geese, especially their babies? Will the City of Ann Arbor leave some space near the river bank for the ducks and geese to live there? Will the owners of the dogs be responsible and not allow their pets to chase and kill the ducks and geese, especially their babies during the breeding period in the spring time?

Worried that it might get quite muddy

Parking would be my biggest issue but if there is free parking for the dog park that would be nice but right downtown it would be hard to regulate. A new dog park closer to downtown is a wonderful idea though and I fully support it!

Should have some trees and nature. Swift is ugly.

Would want to be sure to solicit in put from nearby food businesses, configure so that dogs are not near these businesses. Think it can be done.

Just a commitment to dogs being fully under control by owners and with all vaccinations.

As long as it is large enough for bigger dogs to get in a good run it would be fine...

Having both big and small parks are important to me - I do not bring my small dog into the big park at Swift Run because of a mauling and killing of a small dog a few years ago.

Parking might be an issue, but I could see myself parking at Argo and walking over.

I think it is too small. I would rather see a bigger space in a more attractive location.

1) Repurposed use of park space ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓

2) No parking at site.

3) The already problematic pedestrian and bicycle access across arterial and feeder traffic lanes.

4) Stop taking parks away from the general public for special use permissions. Should we agitate for cat runs, so that our special pets can enjoy a safe run outside???

As noted earlier, the run-off of fecal matter into the river should be a real concern.

It would be nice to have the parking lot as close as possible to the dog park so that you can keep an eye on your car while out with your dog.

I think there is a real need for this addition. Last weekend in burns park an older single lady swore at us (literally called us names) and called us terrible dog owners. It would be great to have a dog friendly place in town!

Is there enough parking for park users?

Don't know until it's done. I might use it once in a while. Needs to have a nice sitting area for adults to visit with shade.

both parks are really far for me a reason why I have not renewed the license. i have not been in a long time, but we had a good time every time I went

(1) Re "Maintenance": Olson DP doesn't get much in the way of maintenance so I can only hope that the new Broadway Park people will do as we Olson DP people do, i.e., sweep the concrete, provide water for the dogs, provide "poop bags," make occasional "sweeps" of the park to pick up forgotten "poop," etc. When one regularly visits a DP, one tends to "adopt" it. (2) re "Noise": Olson DP is fairly isolated but I can attest to the fact that there's NOT a lot of barking. The dogs are playing, roaming around, seeking pats from the humans, etc.; they really, really don't do a lot of barking. (3) re "Parking": I can't speak to this because I don't know what your plans are BUT if, indeed, the new DP is meant to be primarily for the use of downtown residents, I had sort of assumed that they'd walk there (That's probably stupid of me, right?). I could probably address a few of the other issues but will end here.

We need to help educate dog owners about picking up after their pet and good doggie control (voice commands).

We have a ridiculous amount of *unused* parks in this city. Too small to do anything with, no amenities - they should be turned into small areas for dogs to play. We already pay for them. We should at least make them useful. Other than parking, I marked cleanliness and dog conflicts. These two go with any dog park; something all of those who go need to be mindful of. Good citizens (and good dog owners) limit these issues as a matter of course. Of course, not everyone is either.

No, but I do think that public education regarding proper licensing and user etiquette is important.

Proximity to riverfront

I wouldn't worry about a lack of parking, because it is within walking distance of so many residences. If people need to drive and park, they have to two other dog parks they can use. If the Gandy Dancer doesn't like the idea, I hope you don't let them have veto power! I assume all owners will clean up their dog's poop, which is a concern being so close to the river.. Note the dogs will keep the geese away, at least in that part of the park. The goose poop makes the park a mess, so that would be another plus!

Having to pay fees for licensing and registration and also use of different parks, on top of vaccination fees, does discourage people who have tighter budgets from using the dog parks.

I would like a dog park located closer to my residence around Pioneer high school

I would like to see a nice area for smaller dogs.

What are the vaccine requirements to obtain a permit to use the park? All dogs should be required to be up to date on rabies, distemper/parvo, leptospirosis and bordetella.

Few of the above issues are likely at all to manifest. And dog owners at Swift Run and Olson are (in my experience) very responsible about keeping their dogs under control and cleaning up their waste. Moreover, any of the above issues—if they did manifest—would be overwhelmingly outweighed by everyday use. A2 dog owners (there are thousands of us!) would gain from it. Thank you for considering this proposal and my input.

Runoff with e.coli and nutrients. Secondly, lots of dogs in the river and the erosion.

I don't want to stand around watching my dog. I want to walk with my dog, which means I would like trails of some type, not some bare, unshaded strip.

If it is run as Swift Run is, I don't anticipate any issues.

I'd want to be sure that dog poop wasn't polluting the river nearby.

Ann Arbor needs more dog parks which are walkable for residents who live downtown, or in the Old West Side.

Most of the current park spaces are underutilized and have room for a designated fenced dog park.

parking. 741 N. Main seems like it would be much better

apparent lack of parking. (also, note that Gandy Dancer treats the meters across the street from their restaurant as if it's a private parking lot, often putting valet parked cars on sidewalk with apparent immunity. city needs to enforce parking there if these spots become desirable for users of dog park.)

Spend the money on something more urgent, please.

While I think dog licenses are good and helpful, I don't like the extra fee required to use the dog parks.

This park is not well maintained now, and it is likely to be worse as a dog park. It is also too near to the train tracks from a noise standpoint.

Nightmare trying to access park with dogs. Where will a parking be?

just ensure it is thoughtfully located within the park

Dogs should have to be licensed to use a dog park. Am concerned about aggressive dogs....which is why we haven't gone out of our way to use existing parks.

It gets really muddy at Swift Run

I would want to make sure my dogs wouldn't be able to escape if we went to the park.

This park is so full of goose poop I avoid even walking through it & I'm in the area walking my dog often

Limits to accessibility will hinder use.

Certainly would want park clean and well maintained. Would want shade areas! Otherwise, no particular concerns with this spot.

There should be limited off-leash time (even 15 minutes) at Burns Park after the school day begins. Many parents walk their dogs to drop off kids at school, and the Park is literally 100% empty at that time.

When I have been to other dog parks there ALWAYS seem to be people who refuse to supervise their own dogs in spite of conflicts with other pets and people, there are those who refuse to pick up after their own dogs.

Potential for runoff into the river.

Not sure where to park. Seems an under-used park because I'm sure people don't quite know how to get there/access...is there an official 'entrance'?

See previous comment.

(by parking, I mean lack of nearby parking - although Island Lake or Argo are relatively close)

Run off into the river where a lot of people use the river.

Dog parks should be accessible. You shouldn't need a special permit in addition to a dog tag. The city needs to support dog owners and not restrict and punish them.

Rather than have a large field. Have paths walk or skate or x-ski with dog off lead. I want to exercise w my dog and not merely watch my dog.

protection from trains?

issues re vectors for diseases: Parvo, Circovirus, Canine influenza...

then the whole behavior issues and risks to kids as currently children are permitted at area dog parks - not a good idea

Expense

Irresponsible college-aged dog owners

Again, sufficient acreage and landscaping are most important. I checked conflicts above because space is small, but I do like trees and water. Swift Run is so barren and I don't go there anymore.

I am new to Ann Arbor. I share my life with 2 Scotties, who are not particularly suited to the dog park experience, but I fully support the use of public funds for the establishment of dog parks. I would like to say, though, that one of the surprises I have encountered in A2 is that not all dog caregivers here clean up after their pets in public parks and along public trails. This I find disgusting.

I don't know the specific area well enough to comment on concerns. I have worked with dogs for 26 yrs and I think dog parks are great if maintained properly.

Swift Run has been getting better maintenance this year, but still needs shade, windbreaks and more benches. It could also benefit from another smaller fenced off area (i.e the SW portion) when you want your dog to play separately from a large pack in the whole space.

Need a method to separate dogs in conflict. (Posted guidelines or direct phone for Sheriff).

Parking availability near dog park

health of animals using park

contaminated soil from the hazardous site behind the Amtrak station

The most important factors to me are that the enclosed areas have grass, not gravel, and separate areas for large and small dogs.

Extreme small breeds (e. g. Yorkshire terriers) are a liability for owners of larger dogs.

Park need water spigot

Please see previous explanation of parking and safety with train tracks

Dog conflicts are not limited to this proposed site. I see them at Swift Run regularly. Parking is one issue, since I'm sure I'm not the only person who would sometimes need to drive there.

Need more parks or larger ones!

I'd hate to see this lower town area turned over to a dog park. We'd never get it back for general use. Also, I see people letting their dogs loose in the river being an issue for those using the river for recreation.

will there be fees?

We strongly support additional dog parks. Great idea. Thank you.

As long as the city has some budget to dedicate to this, I think it's a good spot.

People conflicts

fecal runoff in the river, poor access to the park generally, doesn't seem like it would be used, why not get access to the MichCon site across the street much larger and make a temp park see if anybody uses it first

I don't have to pay to use other city parks and I don't think it's right to ask us to pay to use a dog park. The dog license fees and taxes we pay for parks should cover the expenses. Is there an extra fee for the skate park? How is the dog park different

We had not-so-good experiences in both Swift Run and Olsen dog parks during about 2 years of use (2-3 x per month) in 2008-09 when our dogs were young. Aggressive dogs, unlicensed dogs and probably non-fee-paying owners, even a woman who kicked our puppy in the neck at Olsen, when our pup tumbled her dog during play (both had wagging tails!). Just not worth the risks. BUT, too many people are letting their dogs off-leash in our neighborhood and parks (e.g., Bird Hills, Miller), so we'd support another park that we hope they'll use.

I think dog parks should be well landscaped and maintained. They should add to the attractiveness of the neighborhood.

Is the space really big enough?

Please include an area specifically for small dogs, 20 lbs and under

Dog parks = happiness. What are the downsides? NONE.

There does not yet seem to be clear information about parking or accessibility, including walking paths to/entry into the park. I've listed this as a concern because I haven't seen information presented yet, but maybe it's already been taken into account.

My maintenance concern is related to concerns experienced at Swift Run, which often has water pools/mudholes develop over the winter and spring.

Additionally, a water source at this park would be a great addition - something that is lacking at Swift Run.

No concerns.

In addition to the other issues above, the noise from the trains will also scare the dogs. Wurster Park is a better location, or Allmendinger.

Proximity of railroad is a minus for safe access and for human enjoyment. What is the relationship to the B2B Trail? Slightly concerned about whether the river would be open to the park or not, but would be happy either way. No concerns of this becoming a dog park. For quite some time, I've been wondering why more people don't utilize this area as it's centrally located and beautiful. If it gets more people downtown, why not!

This park is likely not large enough. Swift Run works well because all dogs have a lot of space to run.

Fantastic idea!

There is no parking specific to this site, but it doesn't need it since the users will presumably just walk there from their homes.

How often does that park flood in the spring?

It is reasonable to expect that some dog owners will allow their dogs to go into the river for a dip to cool off (it will happen, even if it's not legal), is that stretch of the river safe (how is water currents flow strength? And are the river banks easy to navigate?) ? What can be done to deter owners from allowing dogs in the river?

No concerns.

Water availability for the dogs

People pay 25-35 a month for additional rent, it'd be nice not to have to pay a monthly fee to use the park

It would be nice if it was completely fenced in.

Please leave enough room for a non-motorized path along the south side of the river connecting to planned trails over beneath the Fuller Bridge.

health of dogs at park, possible spreading of disease

Not so sure I want to watch dogs relieving themselves while paying for \$\$\$\$ at Gandy Dancer, come to think of it.

Wonder what the GD management thinks?

threats to wildlife, put a dog park in a more secluded area where there are not an abundance of wild animals, geese, ducks, swans, groundhogs etc. ..

The selected areas are too small as to be useful. One of the points of having an off leash dog area is to give the dogs space to run. These two lots are tiny in size, and they're not that exciting either--both are effectively open land. Make them bigger?

Location (proximity to river)

It's still not enough. With strict leash laws and many, many pets in Ann Arbor, it is inhumane to have only 2 or 3 legal off-leash areas. There should be one in every neighborhood, or leash laws should be repealed/weakened.

Just make sure dog poop isn't getting washed into the river. And be vigorous about making sure no aggressive dogs or dogs without tags are allowed in, because dog fights do happen at dog parks. It's just a fact.

Limit to access of the park by non-dog park users. Slight concern with small/large dog interactions across the fences.

Dog owners letting their dogs off leash in adjacent parks (but really this seems to happen in almost every city park) Rather than using resources to create specific parks; open up school yards during "off hours"; say 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. where dogs can run off leash. Increase fines for not picking up after your dog to a hefty amount. Monitor with cameras. That way dogs remain in their neighborhood, where neighbors are more likely to be accepting, respectful and cordial.

While I like the idea of a big dog/small dog park, I have both a big AND a small dog. So which park would I theoretically use?

I think most users would walk to this site so parking would not be a problem.

some area of this park do not seem to be safe. I sometimes hesitate to walk there. I would like it to be more secure.

Broadway park is a very nice park to spend a few minutes after a walk from downtown. Sitting by the river and watching the river flow by is a calming experience. I support the dog park at this location, but would like to see the riverfront left undisturbed. Could you use the eastern portion of the park and then possible move the small dog fenced in area to the south?

There is no parking here. There is a prominent draw restaurant here. Restaurant patrons will not want to overlook a dog park.

potential problem of dog waste washing into river

I am most concerned about cleanliness on sidewalks near the dog park. How will this be enforced?

As a resident who owns dogs but does not have children, user fees are a frustration, there is no charge for the use of non-dog parks there should not be a fee for dog friendly parks either.

Why not having a dog park near the center of town?

I worry that the train noise may be scary/startling for some dogs and that unexpected fear-based reactions to it could potentially lead to conflicts between dogs.

I live close to Old West Side. Please put a dog park closer to residential areas. Why not something at Vets Park? LOTS of room there.

The fence does not allow access to the river. Move the fence so there is water access like at Mill Creek Dog Park in Saline. Access would have to be closed in winter due to ice danger.

Just the humans but like dogs they work it out.

I was last person standing as the moment for dog parks began. R. Gomez

My current two small dogs are not fond of dog parks, but I support this effort.

Access to the river may be a problem if dog go across or down the river.

My concern with any dog park is that I just don't know the temperament of the other dogs so I am a little hesitant to let my dog run loose.

I don't like the user fees. Most groups except golfers seem to be able to use the parks for free. Is there any reason why a dog park might cost more than a playground? If not, it is unreasonable to charge the people with dogs a fee when you aren't charging children.

My concerns would be the same as when the Swift run site was developed. Primarily that double, inward opening gating be required and that the fencing should be 6 feet tall. These actions will best ensure the safety of the dogs that use the park.

Threatening wildlife as well

I'm worried that the city will put the rich clients of Gandy Dancer (and their concerns about their "view") ahead of the needs of me and my dog.

My only worry is the proximity to the river, I would not want the river to have a bunch of turd runoff in it every time it rains.

Due to the river being right there, I expect that dog park users will want to let their dogs swim too...and I am concerned that then we will have dogs off leash outside the fenced in area.

I also am perturbed at dog owners using the other parks and NOT picking up their dog's feces. The park is only pleasant when everyone assumes responsibility for their pet's waste and behavior.

close to traffic... safety issue

Location SUCKS for west side folks. I hope this isn't the only option; I am so disappointed. This location is literally about 10 minutes from another dog park (Olsen), so I'm not sure you're really doing any good by putting it here.

You seriously need one on the west side.

Gandy Dancer may object, but their aggressive valet drivers have nearly taken my life on several occasions, so I don't really care about their view. They don't own the view of the park, and dogs may be preferable to the homeless encampment that takes over that area every summer.

There is already a dog park on the North side of town. The west side needs a park that is located near downtown.

Main concern goose poop and the bacteria/parasites it contains.

Also wood chips should NOT be used as bedding because dogs will eat them, (sharp objects and parasite transmission), and it is impossible to clean up all of dog poop.

Proximity to river- impact of change in land use on river. Would dog waste that isn't cleaned up runoff into river?

Would waste affect water quality?

I probably will not use it if there are user fees as I would probably use it infrequently.

Too secluded. I would not go there.

Make sure it is as easy as possible for people to use this dog park. Adequate parking is necessary. Step up enforcement for off leash dogs everywhere, including (especially) Eberwhite Woods.

Will there be parking nearby? And will it cost me more to use all three parks than it did to use just the two?