



Off-Leash Program Advisory Group Charter

April 2010

Mission

The Off-Leash Program Advisory Group assists Portland Parks & Recreation in ensuring that off-leash areas are healthy, safe, fun places for people and their dogs.

Group Character

Group members are:

- Committed to working on a discrete set of goals
- Constructive and respectful
- Willing to be informal and not overly political
- Aware that PP&R 's mission is to create a parks system that serves ALL Portlanders
- Aware that resources are limited

Each group member brings a unique perspective that they balance with a community-wide vision. The group is intended to:

- Be geographically diverse
- Represent a broad range of interests and perspectives
- Represent a broad range of off-leash area users
- Include representation from the 2004 Off-Leash Advisory Committee
- Include representation from new voices in the OLA community
- Include representation from general park users

Scope of Work

Working within the framework established in the [2004 Off-Leash Program Evaluation & Recommendations](#), the Off-Leash Program Advisory Group will guide PP&R in addressing challenges and opportunities that face Portland Parks & Recreation's Off-Leash program.

This means:

- Helping create a prioritized plan to address off-leash program problems and solutions
- Guiding Portland Parks & Recreation in implementing that plan
- Advising Portland Parks & Recreation as off-leash program strategies and initiatives develop

Meeting Duration and Frequency

The Advisory Group, intended to be in place through 2011, will meet once a month from March-May 2010, and bi-monthly beginning in August 2010.

The first year, 2010, will be primarily focused on establishing priorities for the Bureau's operational work plan and getting started on working through the issues. Meeting focus is anticipated as:

- Spring 2010: Formalize the group's work and the Bureau's dog off-leash work program for 2010/2011.
- August-October 2010: Specific implementation strategies, discussions with park supervisors to work through any outstanding site-specific issues, and begin framing the discussions for 2011.
- December 2010: Review accomplishments and plan for 2011

Time Commitment

Advisory Group members are expected to attend group meetings, which generally last 1-2 hours. Additionally, members may be asked by PP&R staff to review or comment on materials, attend other meetings or events, or give feedback outside of meeting times. The total time commitment is anticipated to be no more than 4 hours per month.

Process to Develop Recommendations

The Advisory Group will work to reach agreement on advice and recommendations. The group will use a consensus process that respects the perspectives and contributions of all members. Whenever possible, the group will forward recommendations that are supported by the full group. If full agreement is not possible, the group will use a simple majority vote to finalize recommendations. In the case of a majority vote, minority reports will be accepted and submitted along with the group recommendation.

The suggestions, advice, and recommendations of the Advisory Group will be provided to the project staff and the Director of Portland Parks & Recreation for consideration. Final decisions will be made by the PP&R Director.