

From: Ben Parent [mailto:seasprite1976@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 7:44 PM

To: Council; Kathy Bergen

Subject: Riley Dog Park Proposal

Hello!

I just wanted to reach out to you today to let you know that I support the dog parks of Duluth, including the proposed site of the Riley Dog Park. There are many hard working volunteers that make these parks a possibility with little help from the city.

I am saddened to see some people so against them for reasons that make no sense. People have made remarks that the dog park users shouldn't be able to use tax payers land for free, but last I checked, the majority of the people using the dog parks ARE city tax payers. If the city ever decides to charge for the use of the free open park space, then I would hope that it would be equal on all levels. Anyone that wants to skate, play ball, use the playground, or use the park for whatever sport they choose, they should have to pay rent just like the dog park users. I really hope that is not what this comes to.

Dog park users are people of this great outdoor community. Their sport is playing with their dog in our dog parks. They meet others with the same interests, build relationships, and develop a stronger sense of community. I work in a local dog store in the downtown area and there are always new people traveling into the city with their dogs. They too are looking for a place that they can exercise their dog while traveling.

Thank you for your time,
Jamie Parent