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**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2015 3:41 PM  
**To:** Council; Kathy Bergen  
**Cc:** duluthdogparks@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Duluth Dog Parks

Hello,

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, you'll have before you the proposal for a new dog park on Riley Road. Before your meeting, I feel it's important that you have an understanding how valuable dog parks are to Duluth families.

I was born and raised in Duluth and my two children were born and are being raised in Duluth. Our roots in this beautiful city are deep and long lasting.

In our family we have a couple of dogs as it gives my children (ages 12 and 15) a fun and rewarding means of learning responsibility. One of our dogs is a Dutch Shepard puppy, Tucker. He is amazing and is a definite partner in crime with my 12 year old son, Tyler. My son walks him and feeds him each day. They take adventures in the trails behind St. Scholastica. Tyler and Tucker are inseparable.

Despite all the love and attention, there is no way Tyler could walk the energy out of his pup. An 11 month old puppy has endless amounts of energy. So each evening, I pack up the pup and we head to the dog park. He runs and runs and runs and runs. He plays with other dogs and learns how to be social and fit into a pack of dogs (each day is different, so each day is a new lesson). When I return home, Tyler feeds his furry family member and the two retreat to his room for video games and cuddles.

Because of the dogs, spend more money in Duluth. I board my dogs here. My vet is here. I've had both dogs trained here. They are groomed here. I purchase their food, toys, accessories here. I bring my dogs places which means I visit dog friendly establishments. And, yes, I use the dog parks almost daily. Frankly, I spend a small fortune in Duluth businesses on a regular basis and help drive the local economy.

As you consider the dog park location, consider my son and his pup. Both Tyler and Tucker need you to recognize how important dog parks are to our community and to the families who live here.

**Shannon Borgeson**

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