

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Community Development Department

IRAM FAROOQ
Assistant City Manager for
Community Development

To: Richard C. Rossi, City Manager

From: Iram Farooq, Assistant City Manager for Community Development

Date: July 27, 2016

Re: Awaiting Report No. 16-54, regarding finding a long term solution to adding a dog park in East Cambridge by the end of 2016, and fencing in a temporary location for off leash use by the end of summer 2016

Over the past several years the City of Cambridge has been continually working with residents to explore strategies for dogs to be off leash in city parks and open spaces. In 2009, following a public process, morning shared use hours were established at Gold Star Mothers Park on Gore Street in East Cambridge, as well as a number of other open spaces across the city.

In 2013, an Off Leash Working Group composed of both dog owners and non-dog owners was appointed to work with City staff and the community to formulate recommendations on further improvements that can be made for dogs in parks that are beneficial to all park users, including recommended additional shared use parks in underserved areas of the city. Throughout the community process, there was also general support for dedicated off leash areas from both dog owners and non-dog owners. However, because there is a limited amount of open space in the City, with increasing demands on use, tradeoffs will need to be considered at any potential new off leash location.

In the next two years, three new public open spaces will be built in the East Cambridge area: Binney Street Park, Triangle Park, and Rogers Street Park. These open spaces were among those that were considered through the Eastern Cambridge/Kendall Square Open Space Study and subsequent Connect Kendall Square Open Space Competition. Through this process, the City, working with the competition winner, Richard Burck Associates, developed an open space framework to guide the distribution of uses across the three parks as they undergo their respective design processes.

During this process, an area for off leash dog use was identified as a part of the set of uses for Rogers Street Park. Located between Rogers Street and Bent Street and Second and Third Streets, this location could provide a dedicated off leash area easily accessible to the broad East Cambridge and Kendall Square neighborhood. A public meeting for the design of Rogers Street Park is anticipated to be scheduled for the fall. Construction of the park is expected to begin in 2017.

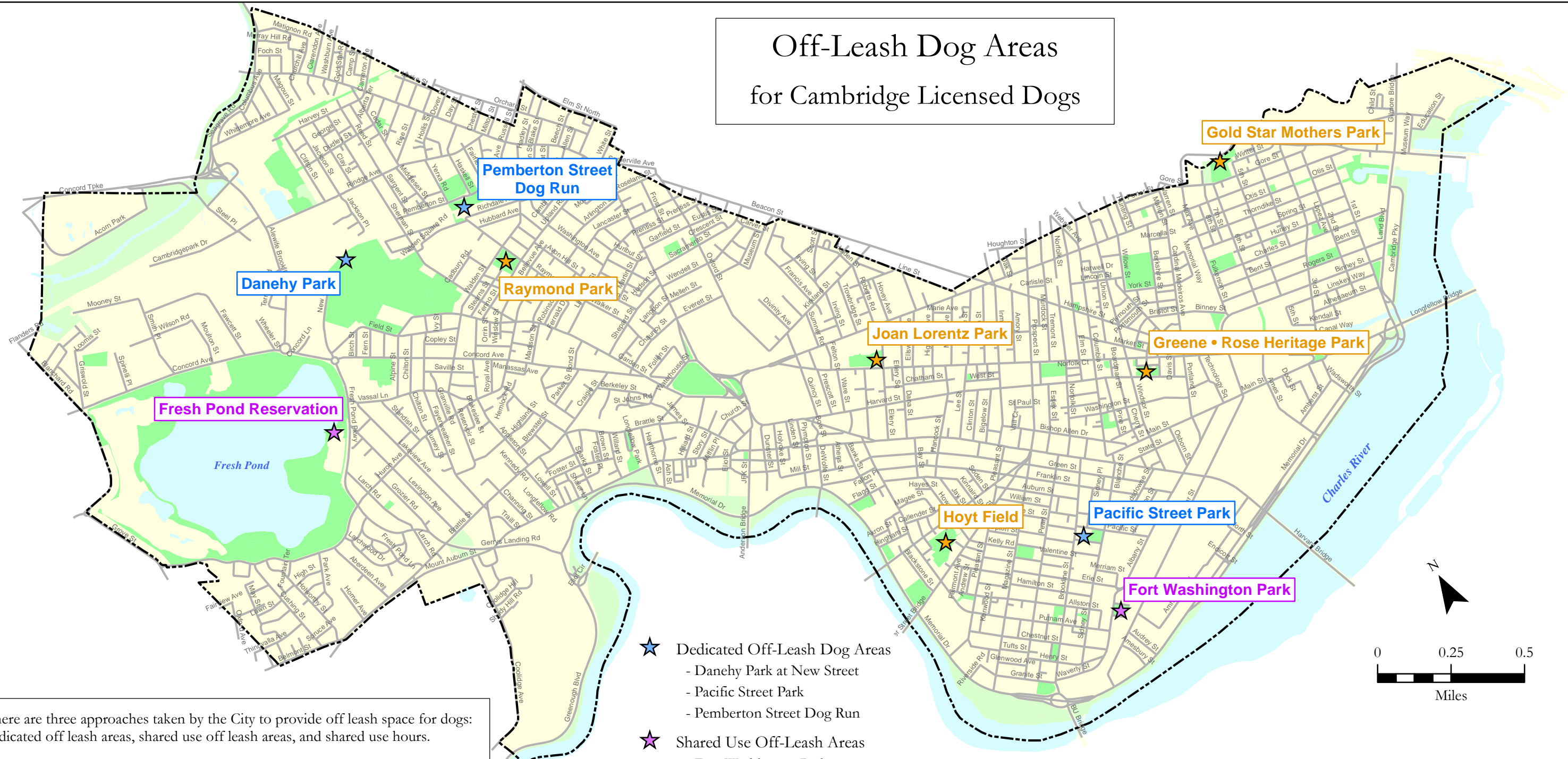
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In the interim, beginning in August 2016, a temporary off leash area is planned to be established on a provisional basis at a currently-fenced lawn area adjacent to the Foundry Building, located at 101 Rogers Street near the site of Rogers Street Park.

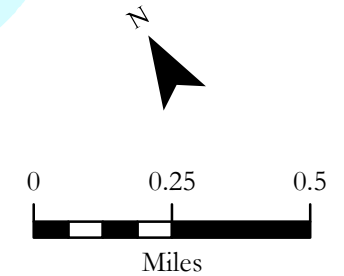
The hours and regulations for the temporary off leash area will be consistent with other existing off leash areas around the city, which are typically dawn to dusk and subject to Cambridge Animal Control regulations. This off leash area is anticipated to be available for use on a seasonal basis until November 2016, and is subject to temporary closure related to construction activities at the adjacent 249 Third Street. The off leash area will not be available for use in the winter, and continued use for the spring will be evaluated at that time.

The City has leased the Foundry building to the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA), and is working with them to select a development entity to redevelop and operate the building. Once a development entity enters into a sublease with the CRA to redevelop the Foundry Building, the area will no longer be available for off leash use. The City will work to identify other interim locations for continued temporary off leash use after the Foundry building sublease is in place. In addition, it is anticipated that the design process for Rogers Street Park will be underway at that point.

Off-Leash Dog Areas for Cambridge Licensed Dogs



- ★ Dedicated Off-Leash Dog Areas
 - Danehy Park at New Street
 - Pacific Street Park
 - Pemberton Street Dog Run
- ★ Shared Use Off-Leash Areas
 - Fort Washington Park
 - Fresh Pond Reservation
- ★ Shared Use Hours (Mornings)
 - 6am - 9am
 - Gold Star Mothers Park
 - Greene • Rose Heritage Park
 - Hoyt Field
 - Raymond Park / Corcoran Field
 - 8am - 10am
 - Joan Lorentz Park
- City Park or Playground
- DCR-Owned Park



There are three approaches taken by the City to provide off leash space for dogs: dedicated off leash areas, shared use off leash areas, and shared use hours.

- **Dedicated off-leash spaces** are specific areas where the primary use is to allow dog owners to have their dogs off leash. These areas are generally fenced in to avoid potential conflicts with other users or passerby, and facilitate the containment of the dog.
- **Shared use off-leash areas** are places where dogs are allowed off leash that are not necessarily separated from other uses and activities.
- **Shared use hours** are certain times that dogs are allowed off leash at the park locations indicated. Outside of off-leash hours, dogs at these parks must be kept on leash.

For more information about off-leash dogs in City parks, please visit www.cambridgema.gov/offleash or contact Community Development at 617-349-4600.

Important Things to Keep in Mind

- Off-leash hours are suspended when there are permitted or school-based activities in the park.
- There are no off-leash hours when parks or fields are saturated with rain.
- Dogs must be under the control of owner/keeper and must have a current Cambridge license.
- Dogs must be leashed when Parks Division crews are working in the park.
- The owner/keeper of any dog(s) must appropriately remove and properly dispose of any and all waste left by the dogs.
- Dogs are not allowed in playground areas, sandboxes, and tennis or basketball courts.

For a complete list of rules, please see signs at parks/off-leash areas.