



Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space

Review of Off-Leash Dog Area Program





Washoe County Parks Off-Leash Program Overview

- Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space tested a one-year pilot program
- Three Washoe County Parks with soccer fields have had off-leash hours of 8am-sunset everyday during the soccer off-season, November through February
- The same three parks have had off-leash hours of 8am-1pm Monday-Friday during non-team use March through November



Off-Leash Program Park Review- North Valleys

■ **North Valleys Regional Park (80 x 80 soccer field)**

8085 Silver Lake Rd., Reno 89506

Fully fenced 80 x 80 soccer field



1. Number of users during off-leash hours by day/month/year

During pilot program, weekday and weekend use had been consistent at 20 people per day. Presently, a regular group meets every morning and average use is 50-70 people per day. Due to no soccer on this field for two seasons there has been weekend use.

2. Dog waste left on field

No reports of dog waste on field. Garbage cans at each entrance have been full of mostly dog waste bags.

3. Number of calls to Washoe County Animal Services

One aggressive dog with owner.



Off-Leash Program Park Review- North Valleys

4. Number of refilled dog waste bags

On average, 6 boxes of dog waste bags refilled each week

5. Damage reports filed

None

6. Comments and suggestions from the public

Users continue to be thankful and respectful. Every time I go to refill bags or talk with people, they always thank me and comment on what a great space this is for their dog and themselves.





Review of Off-Leash Program- Lazy 5

■ Lazy 5 Regional Park (lower soccer field)



7100 Pyramid Way, Sparks 89436

Unfenced soccer field far away from main road and surrounded by sagebrush on two sides. Playground and pavilion are at a distance from fields.

- 1. Number of users during off-leash hours by day/month/year:**
During pilot program the average was 15 users per day, currently average is 100 per day, with up to 250 on nice weather weekends.
- 2. Dog waste left on field:** Zero complaints from soccer or staff
- 3. Number of calls to Washoe County Animal Services:** Zero



Review of Off-Leash Program- Lazy 5

- 4. Number of refilled dog waste bags:** 3 boxes of bags (200 bags per box) twice a week
- 5. Damage reports filed:** Zero
- 6. Comments/suggestions/complaints from the public**

There have been 3-4 complaints from the public about off leash dogs on the playground. A short stretch of split rail fence is planned to be installed as a visual barrier.

Regular users everyday are very thankful and happy with the access to have their dog off-leash. An actual fenced dog park is wanted at Lazy 5 in the future.



Review of Off-Leash Program- South Valleys

- **South Valleys Regional Park** 15650 Wedge Pkwy., Reno 89511



Lower soccer field between Library and playground. Chain link fence on two sides, split rail and retaining wall on the other sides.

1. **Number of users during off-leash hours by day/month/year:**
Average users per day during pilot program was 30 people per day, currently average is 150 users per day.
2. **Dog waste left on field:** Occasional complaint from park users
3. **Number of calls to Washoe County Animal Services:** zero
4. **Number of refilled dog waste boxes:** 6 boxes per week



Review of Off-Leash Program- South Valleys

5. Damage reports filed: Zero

6. Comments and suggestions from the public

Overall support of the off-leash program and the great social (human and canine) network that has developed because of it.

One complaint of soccer starting earlier than 1pm- staff explained that soccer leagues have priority of the field.

WASHOE COUNTY
NEVADA



Review of Off-Leash Program

What's Next?

- The goal of this program was to spread out the off-leash dog use to many parks, to prevent certain parks from being overused and to grow with the higher demand and population.
- Presentation to City of Reno and City of Sparks is planned this Fall/Winter 2025 to make the case to start an off-leash program of their own in certain parks. The goal would be to start with one or two city parks during non-team use for their own pilot program starting in Spring 2026.



Program Summary

- Overall, the program has been very well received by the public. An overwhelming majority of dog owners are thankful to have an off-leash option for their dogs that is closer to where they live. Most users have been respectful, follow the posted rules, and clean up after their pet. We now have regular groups that meet everyday at these fields, which has contributed to a sense of community and is a positive addition to the parks.