



City of Cambridge

37.

IN CITY COUNCIL

August 1, 1994

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR MYERS
VICE MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR WALSH

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Deputy City Manager to meet with residents of Cambridgeport concerning the attached letter - relative to locating a dog run area. The City Manager shall report back to this City Council on October 3, 1994.

In City Council August 1, 1994.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Joe Daley
The Mayor's Office
795 Mass. Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

June 25, 1994

Dear Mr. Daley,

We would like to have a park in Cambridgeport designated a dog run area, as provided in Animal Control Regulations 6.04.040.

Dogs constitute a significant part of the Cambridgeport community and help enhance the neighborhood experience. We believe the designation of a dog run area will benefit both the dog owners and the larger community.

It is to the benefit of the whole community to have healthy and friendly dogs, and a dog run area is essential to achieve this end. Healthy dogs need space to run, play, and exercise. In addition, dogs, unlike cats, are pack animals and need to socialize with other dogs as well as with humans. Socialization allows dogs to learn canine and human etiquette. Exercise allows them to expend excess energy. Both help produce calm, well-socialized, friendly animals. An off-leash dog park where dog owners can gather is essential for these purposes. Dog socialization on-leash is extremely dangerous, since tangled leashes can become deadly. Moreover, an on-leash dog derives confidence from the tie to its owner and tends to be more aggressive than an off-leash dog.

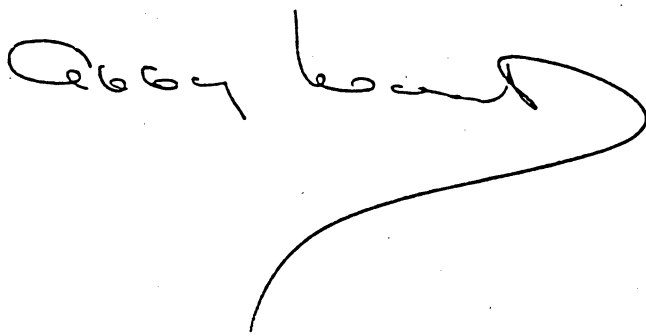
Having a dog run area will also help reduce some of the stress of living with dogs. We are aware, for example, that some members of our community may prefer not to encounter dogs. A designated dog run area will draw the dogs of the neighborhood to that locale and will thus give those individuals greater option to avoid dogs. An off-leash dog park will also tend to limit/concentrate the area dogs use to defecate. It will be easier for dog owners to self-patrol and Animal Control Officers to ensure that the feces are properly disposed.

Also very important is the fact that gathering, socializing and relaxing with other neighborhood dog owners has allowed many of us to feel a part of the larger Cambridgeport community for the first time. This has been especially true for those of us who are single and/or without young children. In addition, our presence in the parks at various hours of the day and evening has itself imparted a sense of community and safety to everyone who lives in the area. An off-leash dog park will help consolidate this sense of neighborhood identity.

A dog run area that will generate friendly dogs and a social neighborhood needs to be centrally located, well lit, and fenced in. We propose Dana Park, Riverside Park, or the new park at Sydney and Pacific. We would also consider the alternative of having off-leash hours (for example 6-9am and 6-9pm), or having a part of a park fenced in as a dog run area.

We hope you will attend to this matter and look forward to your timely reply. Our contact person is Abby Winston, 30 Kelly Street, Cambridge, MA 02139; 661-3036.

Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abby Winston". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely-". The signature is somewhat stylized, with a long, sweeping underline that curves back under the name.

cc: Mark McCabe, Cambridge Animal Control Office



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COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

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Trantafellow, Myra, Russell
Walsh
Consent Order #37

CM-252

Councillor Sullivan re: Loccating
a dog-run area in the Cambridge
port area.

In City Council August 1, 1994

Order adopted