



PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Monday, February 14, 2022 at 5:00 PM
Caledonia Village Hall – 5043 Chester Lane**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Public Comment (2 minutes/person)
4. Gorney Dog Park – Discuss potential development of the southern portion of Gorney Park into a public dog park.
5. Crawford Park Expansion Plan – Discuss past efforts and review materials related to the completed Crawford Expansion Park Plan.
6. Request for Proposals for Crawford Park Master Plan – Review and refine the scope and details of the RFP to create a master park development plan for the undeveloped 10 acres of Crawford Park and a 7-acre open area south of Village Hall.
7. Adjournment

Dated this February 11, 2022

Joslyn Hoeffert
Village Clerk

Only committee members are expected to attend. However, attendance by all Board members (including non-members of the committee) is permitted. If additional (non-committee) Board members attend, three or more Board members may be in attendance. Section 19.82(2), Wisconsin Statutes, states as follows:

If one-half or more of the members of a governmental body are present, the meeting is rebuttably presumed to be for the purposes of exercising the responsibilities, authority, power or duties delegated to or vested in the body.

To the extent that three or more members of the Caledonia Village Board actually attend, this meeting may be rebuttably presumed to be a “meeting” within the meaning of Wisconsin’s open meeting law. Nevertheless, only the committee’s agenda will be discussed. Only committee members will vote. Board members who attend the committee meeting do so for the purpose of gathering information and possible discussion regarding the agenda. No votes or other action will be taken by the Village Board at this meeting.

Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting
January 10, 2022

Committee: Caledonia Trustee Tom Weatherston, Caledonia Trustee Lee Wishau, Residents: Josh Sopczak, Mark Leskowicz, Michael Lambrecht, Christian De Jong, Andrew Kallenbach

Absent:

Staff/Others: Peter Wagner, Tony Bunkleman, Ken Michel

1. Call the meeting to order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Tom Weatherston

2. Approval of Minutes

Mike Lambrecht moved to approve the minutes, 2nd by Josh Sopczak, motion carried unanimously

3. Public comment

None

4. Reorganization of the Parks Department

Pete Wagner presented the new Village organization chart and did an overview of the previous parks management structure. Several staff members have been taking on various Joint Park responsibilities after the departure of the full time manager. The new organization structure has parks reporting to the highway department with oversight from Tony Bunkleman. Pete Wagner will back away from most parks activities to concentrate on his planning responsibilities.

5. 2022 Capital Improvement Projects Review

Pete Wagner presented a review of the capital improvement projects included in the 2022. budget. As of 1/1/2022 the Joint Park facility will be operated by Racine County therefore Capital projects planned by Caledonia other than the parking lot resurfacing allocation will be moved to the budget of the remaining Caledonia parks. Discussion of possible projects at Gorney park included possible tree planting, grill replacement and a dog park.

6. Request for Proposals – Crawford Park Master Plan

Discussion of an RFP to assist in developing a Crawford Park master plan development was held as a follow up to the previous meeting. Michael Lambrecht provided a historical perspective of the process that the previous park commission used to develop the existing Crawford Park master plan (since discarded). Discussion followed regarding the current committee's role in developing a master plan. The public safety building location will impact the master plan. Tom Weatherston asked Pete Wagner to forward support materials from the plan to committee members and instructed committee members to plan on further discussion at the next meeting. RFP will not be issued at this time.

7. Adjournment

Mike Lambrecht moved to adjourn, 2nd by Mark Leskowicz. Motion carried unanimously @ 6:15PM.

GOING *to the Dogs*

BY KELLI RA ANDERSON

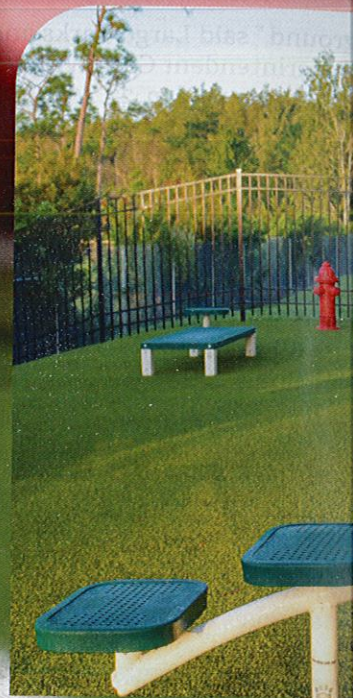
It's not your imagination. The number of dogs in our neighborhoods, parks and homes is at an all-time high and projected by the American Veterinarian Medical Association to grow from 85 million in 2020 to more than 100 million by 2030. If trends continue, they say, the number of canine households in America will pass 50% within the next 10 years. That's a lot of kibble.

As a result of America's new love affair with man's best friend, business intel from IBIS World say there is an especially rosy future for the dog park industry. Individuals and communities now realize "properly designed dog parks have a myriad of positive effects on the dogs, individuals and the surrounding community,"

IBIS reports. Not surprisingly, the demand for quality dog parks is on the rise.

Gone are the days when a dog park could consist of a grassy plot and a fence. To create a great dog park there are design dos and don'ts and smart management practices to help ensure it will succeed.

"Operating or managing a dog park is like any other significant amenity, it requires a significant commitment of daily upkeep, maintenance and cleaning," said John Sarver, president for a manufacturer of dog park products based in Indianapolis, Ind. "The most important aspect when putting together a dog park is that it is safe and that you are hopefully minimizing any health or



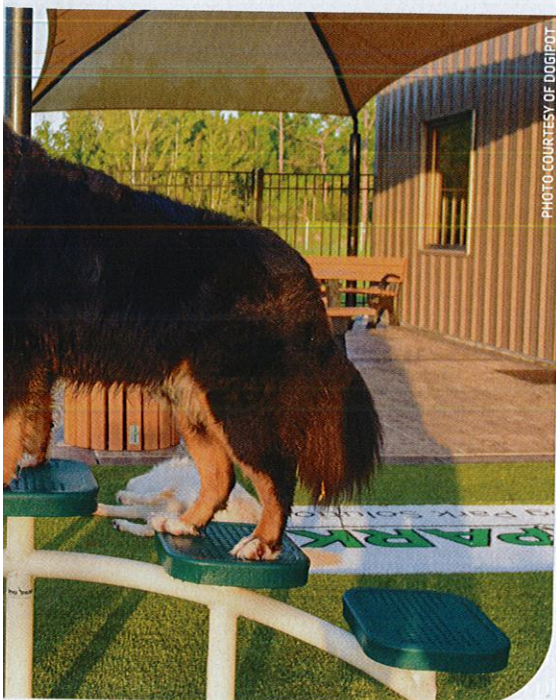


PHOTO COURTESY OF DOGIDOT



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF EDINBURG

safety risks at the park. The safety aspect of the park can be affected by these factors: the location of the park, the size and design of the park, the strict enforcement of the necessary rules, daily maintenance, cleaning

and inspection of the park and its elements."

Whether it is an enormous dog park in the mountains of Vermont or one of the growing number of smaller community dog parks proliferating

around the country, it takes good design, carefully selected amenities and dogged oversight to make these spaces work for pooches and their humans alike.

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again (three years in a row) of the Trust for Public Land's national ranking for dog parks per capita this year, are leading the pack in applying consistent strategies, along with some innovative ways to incorporate dog parks into existing neighborhood parks.

"A dog park is an activation for the neighborhood



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POOP HAPPENS

Of all the mistakes a dog park can make, failure to clean up dog waste is top of the list. Underestimating the role a well-knit community plays is often part of the problem; a committed dog park community is critical to help monitor and keep these spaces clean, especially with regard to dog waste. A city can spend millions for a great dog park, but bad users unwilling to be accountable to the rules can ultimately make for a bad park experience.

"The biggest negative is to make sure they maintain dog waste," said William Ramser, Silvercreek Township trustee of the Silvercreek Township Dog Park in Sellersburg, Ind. "We have signs that encourage people to understand it is their mess, not mine. The community owns this park. If you treat it like it's yours, like if a neighbor's dog makes a mess in your yard, you deal with it. You say something. Politely. Overall, our complaints have been minimal. Without a doubt we get more 'thank you's' and 'great park, we appreciate you doing it' than negative comments. The pros always outweigh the negatives, by far. But even if only 51% like you, you win."

There are certainly many ways dog parks are currently winning the battle of dog waste management. Here are just a few ideas successful dog parks are currently implementing to help ensure their parks are kept sanitary and enjoyable for all users:

- » Create dog parks within a walking-distance community to foster mutually accountable relationships between dog owners.
- » Monitor and remove dog waste daily (whether waste is ultimately trucked out or carried out by hand to be composted, converted to methane or other means of disposal).
- » Provide clear signage (preferably short, sweet, humorous and visible everywhere) to indicate the rules and responsibilities of each dog owner.
- » Encourage the 15-second rule through signage that dog owners pick up their pet's waste within 15 seconds of deposit.
- » Place dog waste bags at entrances and included with all the waste receptacles placed liberally throughout the park for easy disposal access.
- » Post a phone number patrons can call or text to alert managers should the bag supplies run low or the waste receptacles reach capacity.
- » Daily visits before the parks open, during the day and before the close of each evening from park managers or another designated person is the best way to ensure sanitation is under control. All elements should be inspected, cleaned and waste disposed of.
- » Create a volunteer board to help foster a sense of responsibility and encourage community oversight. Bonus? Volunteer workers to help maintain the upkeep and sanitation of the park, and to reduce costs.
- » Provide kiosks, internet social media chat boards or other means of communication to encourage community conversation and interactions to activate mutual responsibility and engagement.
- » Pay and train enforcement officers to "police" the park community and issue friendly warnings and (in worst case scenarios) tickets or fines for failure to abide by dog park rules.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOISE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



PHOTO COURTESY OF WHITFISH DOG PARK

and why we have them in our communities,” said Doug Holloway, director for the City of Boise Parks and Recreation, about their commitment to providing these important recreational and social spaces. “We are strategic. We place them where people can go for their dogs and for a sense of community for their neighborhood. It’s

important in all cities really, to focus on that, to give people a place of ownership to visit and enjoy.”

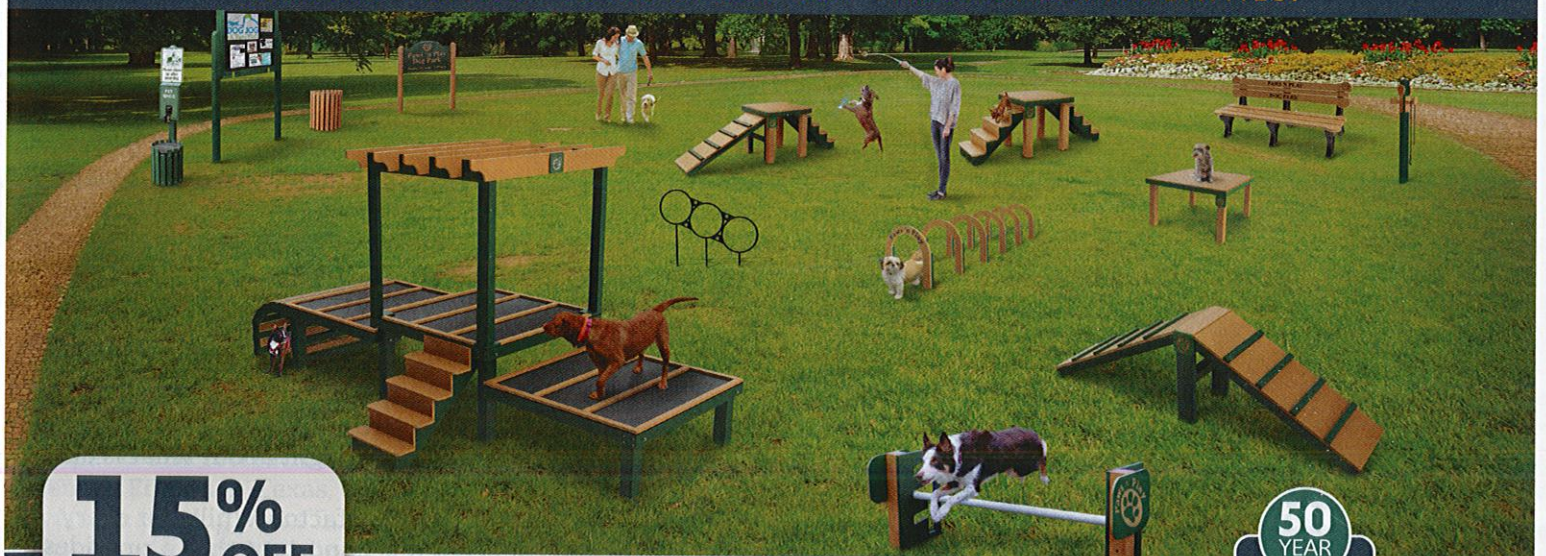
Sniffing Out the Right Location

As with any recreation project, placement is key and soliciting community input should be part of the initial

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process. For Boise, placing off-leash dog areas in existing community parks where owners can easily walk from their homes is a regular practice.

Keeping it local enhances community relationships and fosters ownership and pride of place to maximize cooperation with rules and mutual accountability to enforce

them.

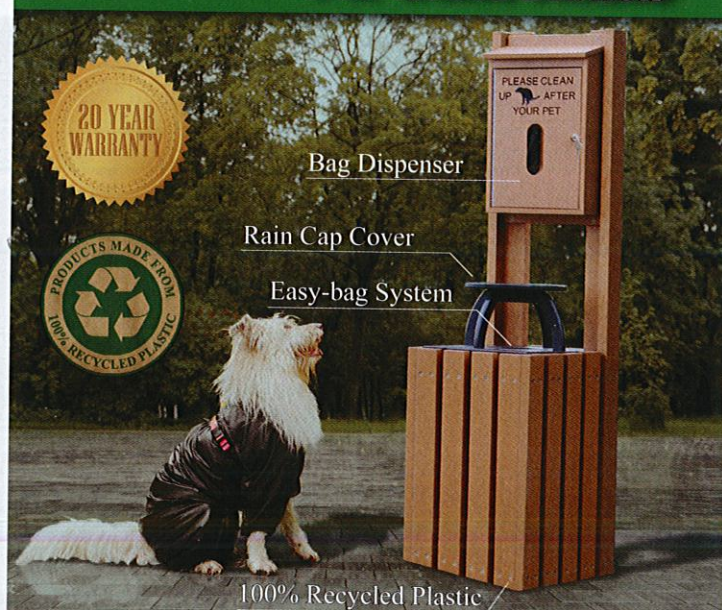
But how to accurately assess the need? Rather than rely on dog licensing numbers, which can underrepresent dog populations, the park district surveys people living within a half-mile of an existing community park to better assess interest in adding an off-leash dog park to a public space. In all but one scenario, the answer in each polled community has been a resounding "Yes!"

Adding a place for dogs and their owners to play within existing parks has many built-in benefits: It offers easy visibility in the community for patrons using a park's other attractions; it takes advantage of existing (and otherwise costly) utility installation like plumbing and electricity; it allows pet owners with children to potentially keep an eye on both of their "babies" at the same time if a child's play area is located nearby; and takes advantage of parking access (always a perk for the mobility-challenged or those with young children looking for easy access).

Another key consideration is safe terrain. Parks placed in dry areas a safe distance from retention ponds and swampy sites where mosquitos and other pests can become a problem are safer and more comfortable. Keeping a safe distance from toxic plants is important too. "Make sure there is no dangerous foliage like sabal palms in Florida," said David Canning, CEO of a dog product manufacturing company out of Orlando, Fla. "Sometimes parks are placed near palmettos that are poisonous if chewed. Give some thought about what is dangerous that could hurt the dog."

Finally, space is an important factor. While not every park can be tens of acres, it is important that it provides enough space for dogs to run unimpeded by agility features or other play structures. If space is spare, however, one option is to place agility or play structures on one side of the park so at least the other half is open space for running and a game of fetch.

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Destination Sensation

While keeping dog parks accessible to neighborhoods is a worthy goal, not every successful dog park is nestled within a local community. Do it right and a dog park can become a destination sensation all on its own. Dog Mountain in St. Johnsbury, Vt., listed in USA Today's "Top Ten Places to Visit" is a dog park like no other. With 150 acres of open spaces and forested mountain trails complete with its own Dog Chapel and farmhouse-turned-art gallery housing original folksy wood cuts by its founder and artist Stephen Huneck, this dog park is off the charts in charm and popularity.

"It's so unique because of many elements," said Pam McCann, general manager of the park, which has drawn visitors from around the world. "It's about an artist and his work and an old farm renovation with the farmhouse's art gallery and a barn that was a production studio with 15 artists working there in its heyday. It's a real treasure in the community to have private space open for use."

With scenic hiking trails, a dog pond, snowshoe trails in winter, wildflower meadows in summer and many events, concerts and "dog party" attractions, the dog park has managed to keep its focus on its founder's vision to provide a free place to the public where dogs are the ultimate guests of honor.

Best in Show

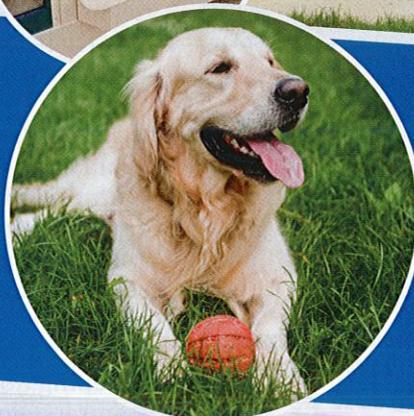
But a dog park doesn't have to have 150 acres with an artist's legacy behind it to be best in show. Just differentiating in some way from dog parks nearby (adding a water feature or agility course) can be all it takes to set you apart.

"Our first dog park didn't have any water features," said Nicholas Villarreal, aquatics manager for the parks and recreation department in Edinburg, Texas, who also oversees the dog parks in the city. "Our second and third, however, we added a fire hydrant with a pedal you activate and it shoots up water. Everyone seems to love it."

Other trends in water play include spray pads that eliminate the prob-



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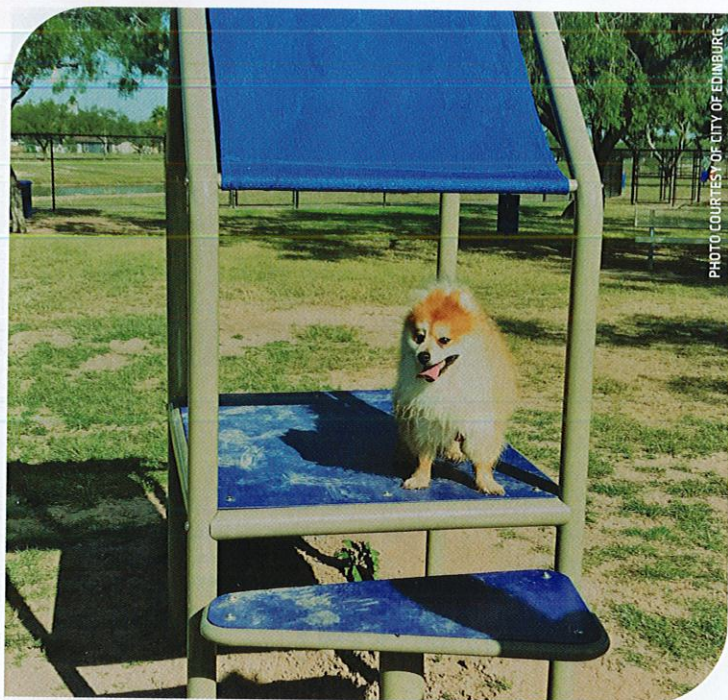
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lem of standing water, and spray stations where dirty paws can be rinsed off before going home. Of course, providing a drinking fountain, probably the most important water element of all, can even become a special attraction with some of today's combination human/canine designs.

Larger water features can be especially inviting if managed well. "If you provide water to swim in? Now that's a real home run, even if they aren't water dogs," said Holloway, about Dog Island, one of the most unique and popular of Boise's dog parks located in the middle of Ann Morrison Park that is surrounded by water.

"You would have thought we cured cancer. People just love it. It's three to four acres in size where people can throw balls in the water and dogs can swim and enjoy time in the water in addition to turf." However, he cautions, be warned. Such water features come with a price: popularity.

"If you build it," observed Holloway, "they will come and stay," which has certainly been the case at Dog Island, where on any given day—even in downpours and inclement weather—people still come to the park to play with their dogs. It is never unused. Or unloved.

Sit, Stay

As with all good park design, there are just some elements that should never be overlooked. Shade from summer's glaring heat and enough seating for patrons to relax while their pets play should always be included. Whether mature trees are part of the landscape or a sheltered pavilion is provided with picnic tables, opportunities for socialization for humans, not just their dogs, is part of the recipe for success.

Keeping dogs safe with fencing (5-foot chain link is often recommended) and providing sectioned off areas for dogs of different sizes (often 35 pounds and up for large breeds and under 35 for smaller), or to keep puppies out of harm's way, or to provide a separate space for older or less energetic pets are all important considerations when thinking about elements that will best fit the needs of your canine and human community.

A double-gated entrance/exit is also strongly encouraged to prevent dogs from accidentally escaping by pro-

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viding a buffer zone between those entering and exiting.

Providing kiosks for the exchange of information or even online chat rooms where people can arrange playdates for their puppy-pals are all great ways to encourage socialization and, ultimately, strengthen the community's commitment in caring for these special parks.

Signage, too, will make following the rules of the park easier for everyone and can make life much easier on managers ultimately responsible for its upkeep. Make sure, however, that rules are clearly displayed, especially with regard to pet waste disposal, along with plenty of trash receptacles and doggie waste stations so compliance is easy for everyone.

Howling Success

Having a large budget, of course, always makes life easier. Who doesn't want to add a new feature or two every year to keep a dog park feeling new and interesting? But when budgets are tight, there are other ways to make it work.

Many parks offset the cost of maintenance while adding local flair with creative signage sponsored by local businesses, or advertising statuary created for the site by local artists. Amenities like seating, or themed paw-print pavers can be monetized as memorials to beloved pets or even family members.

"Having sponsored plaques by local vet clinics and pet stores can help offset the costs," said Amanda Sorely, marketing manager with a pet products company based in Houston, Texas. Grants, too, like Bark for Your Park, which offers 13 grants each year to existing and new parks, can be an enormous help.

Fundraisers are another way communities are doing double duty, raising much needed cash while also providing community-bonding fun. "We do fundraisers and have phenomenal donors. The whole city is involved," said Ray Boksich, board member of Whitefish Dog Park in Whitefish, Mont., which has helped to add continuing improvements to this amazing park with its scenic

Rocky Mountain walking paths and popular swimming pond supplied by an artesian well. "With 61 nonprofits in a month of fundraising, we were able to raise \$63,000."

Armed with an expanded budget for next year, they plan to build an attractive three-sided kiosk and to address a water problem near the entrance with creative landscaping.

Having committed volunteers doesn't hurt either. "We have a lot of help," he said. "We have a 15-person board, which oversees the park, and friends of the park who do things to make it attractive and safe," he explained, including management of waste stations, weeding and snow-blowing in winter to keep pathways clear.

"People were cautious about why do you need a dog park? I was one of them," confessed Boksich. "But as I became more involved, it's phenomenal. It's not just a dog park but a part of our city for people with and even without dogs." RM



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Fence Line Maintenance Cost-Benefit Analysis

Based on feedback from maintenance/grounds directors,
supervisors, and staff from across the country

Fence Line Length Estimates by Facility

- Perimeter fencing - range from 100 LF to 1,000+ LF
- Avg. HS regulation softball field (or youth baseball/softball field) - 550 LF
- Avg. HS regulation baseball field - 1,000 LF
- Avg. HS regulation football/soccer field perimeter fencing - 1,200-1,600 LF



Fence Line Maintenance Yearly Costs & Options

- Cost to maintain fence lines can easily exceed \$1-\$2 per linear foot per year & demand hundreds of hours of labor per year
- Fence line maintenance options
 - FenceGuard Mowstrip
 - String Trimming
 - Chemicals
 - Concrete



Example Fencing Amounts


Example Fencing Amounts for School Districts, Municipalities, etc. of Various Sizes	Facilities with Fencing (Youth, High school, & Adult)	Approx. LF of Fence Line to Maintain
Small	1-2 perimeter fences ; 1 football/soccer stadiums ; 3-4 ballfields (youth-high school)	4,000-6,000 LF
Medium	2-3 perimeter fence ; football/soccer stadiums ; 6-8 ballfields (youth-high school)	8,000-12,000 LF
Large	3+ perimeter fences ; 3+ football/soccer stadiums ; 10+ ballfields (youth-high school)	15,000+ LF

FenceGuard Mow Strip

- Easy to self-install on new fencing or existing fencing with clearance
- One-time cost of \$3-\$4 per LF @ 22" W
 - approx. 20% as expensive as concrete
 - broader coverage than concrete
 - predicted to last for decades (installations since 2008)
- Labor savings
 - eliminates times/resources spent on string trimming
 - maintain fence line/edge with mowing equipment
- Environmentally friendly
 - eliminates need to use chemicals on fence lines
- Provides buffer/protection for fences from potential damage caused by mowers & other lawn equipment



String Trimming

- Time consuming 
- Recurring costs (hours of labor, equipment, & fuel)
- Potential for injuries (flying dust & debris, produces respiratory irritant for operator)
- Releases engine exhaust
- Can cause damage to some types of fencing (especially vinyl)

Weekly Trimming
x
Weeks in Growing Season
=
Total Yearly Hours of Trimming



Chemicals/Pesticides/Herbicides

- Costs add up over time
 - supplies & equipment (incl. personal protective equipment)
 - commercial pesticide applicator license fees
- Time consuming (requires ongoing applications)
- Health/environmental concerns
 - movement strengthening to decrease/eliminate cosmetic chemicals
- Unsightly (yellow stained grass)




Concrete Mow Strips

- Strong & long-lasting
- Durable in different environments
 - extreme cold, heat, etc.
- Expensive compared to alternatives
 - professional install required
 - estimated cost of \$15-\$25 per LF @ $\leq 18''$ W
- Requires trimming when less than 18" W
- Potential damage to fencing (from mowing too close to fence line, etc.)
- Subject to submerging or fracturing over time
 - when concrete breaks down, will require string trimming and/or spraying chemicals



Summary of Options (Per 1,000 LF of Fencing)

	 FenceGuard™	String Trimming	Chemicals	Concrete
Installation	Easily installed on new fencing or fencing with clearance	None	None	Professional install required
Approx. Costs	One-time cost of \$3-\$4 per LF @ 22" width	\$1-\$2K recurring/yearly costs (hours of labor, equipment/supplies, etc.)	\$1-\$2K recurring/yearly costs (hours of labor, equipment/supplies, etc.)	One-time cost of \$15-\$25.00 per LF @ ≤ 18" width
Maintenance	Once per season (recommendation to use flat blade tool to create new, clean line)	Weekly	Monthly	Narrow strips (≤ 18" width) require more trimming
Appearance	Neat, clean-cut appearance ; Imbeds into grass naturally	Grass in fence line days after trimming	Permanent, yellow stain under fencing	Neat, clean-cut appearance ; Submerges over time
Longevity	Prediction of decades (successful installs since 2008)	Re-growth immediately after trimming	Re-growth after 3-4 weeks	Decades ; Subject to fracturing over time
Health/Safety Concerns	None	Potential for injuries (flying dust & debris)	Health concerns (movement to decrease/eliminate cosmetic chemicals is strengthening)	None

Thank You!

Thanks to the numerous maintenance/grounds directors, supervisors, and staff from across the country that provided feedback/insight for this analysis!

**Laura MacLean, Owner & General Manager
FenceGuard Mowstrip**

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Email: laura@fenceguardmowstrip.com

Website: www.fenceguardmowstrip.com



