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THE MILE HIGH CITY

City and County of Denver
Parks and Recreation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver Parks and Recreation Announces External Dog Park Master Plan Task Force

DENVER, CO — June 9, 2009 — Denver Parks and Recreation has selected 15 people to serve on its External Stakeholder Committee regarding the dog park Master Plan and Policy recommendations.

The **External Stakeholder Committee** is comprised of (2) members from Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; (3) members from the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC); (15) citizens (dog owners, non-dog owners, trainers, vets,; and (1) appointee from City Council. The role of this group is to act as a sounding board to the planning process and to provide feedback on proposed plans, policies, and recommendations developed by the City and the **Internal / Technical Committee**, comprised of individuals from within City departments that include Parks & Recreation and Natural Areas, Environmental Health, Community Planning and Development, Public Works Wastewater, Denver Park Rangers, Animal Control and Park Superintendents. The role of this group is advisory in developing and providing ideas for the improvement of existing dog parks and the planning of new dog parks as it pertains to location, design criteria, environmental and water quality considerations and general policy recommendations and enforcement recommendations.

The External Stakeholder Committee will meet several times over the summer to discuss the master plan draft and recommendations to provide their input and expertise. This committee is comprised of veterinarians, dog-walking business owners, members of Great Dane Assistance League, dog trainers, people involved with foster dogs, land use professionals and business professionals. Members are:

CD 1 Sara Nepomuceno
CD 2/3 Lauren Rodriguez (on the border)
CD 4 Arthur Vogt
CD 5 Eve Edmonds
CD 6/7 Ed Sardella (on the border)
CD 8 Priscilla Burton
CD 9 Wendy Sullivan
CD 9 Amy Cara
CD 10 Jay Rust
CD 10 Rachel Jacobs
CD 10 Tanner Johnson
NA Traci Schillinger
NA Peggy Lore
CD 11 Deborah Hogue
CD 11 Reid Dunkin

The Dog Park Master Plan is intended to foster healthy relationships between dog owners, non-dog owners, and all park users. The goal is to improve parks and open spaces to support and accommodate *all* users in a healthy, sustainable environment. The process began in February 2009, when Denver Parks and Recreation launched an extensive Dog Park survey. When it closed on April 30, 2009, nearly 4,000 respondents had

responded.

This Citywide effort will evaluate and examine the current dog parks, provide Design Options & Recommendations (Site Specific), develop a Strategic Dog Park Policy and Implementation Plan, and provide Enforcement Recommendations. Out of this effort, the City hopes to establish a citizen led "Friends Group" to partner with the Department in fundraising and maintenance related activities associated with off-leash dog areas.

Once the final draft of the master plan and policy recommendations is complete, sometime in the fall, the Internal and External committees will help Denver Parks and Recreation to lead a series of Open House meetings to present the plan to the community. People interested in staying abreast of the master plan process can submit their email contact information to DenverDog@Denvergov.org and will be added to the master distribution list for periodic updates. The City will also be asking for additional input throughout the process in the form of short electronic survey that will be sent to the contact list, as well as hosted on the Denver Parks and Recreation Web site at www.denvergov.org/parksandrec.

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