

**SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
**PARKS AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION**  
March 11, 2015

Item 11. Cesar Chavez Park Off Leash Area

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Rich Walkling [rpwalk@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 12:00 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** 11. Discussion and possible action on Cesar Chavez Park Off Leash Area

Dear Roger-

I would like to write in support of Jim McGrath's POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL ON OFF LEASH AREA AT CESAR CHAVEZ PARK as described in his March 4, 2015 memo that was included in the meeting packet.

I have lived in Berkeley for 16 years, use the OLA frequently, and am also a former vice-president of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, former board member and current advisory board member of Citizens for East Shore Parks, and former appointee to the East Bay Regional Park District Park Advisory Committee. Professionally, I work for a Berkeley-based firm that designs habitat restoration and public access features in parks throughout California.

Without reiterating Mr. McGrath's comments, I will simply state my support for all four resolutions and indicate my appreciation for the thoughtful analysis that accompanies them.

-Rich Walkling  
2447 Derby Street

**From:** Dorothy D Gregor [dgregor@mcn.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 1:48 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Off-leash area at Cesar Chavez Park

Along with the Golden Gate Audubon Society, I encourage you to develop an off-leash area that is fenced and closer to parking. This solution is fine for the dogs and better for the wildlife that struggles to live with the intense use of the park.

Thank you,

Dorothy Gregor, a frequent user of the park for birdwatching and exercise  
1628 Berkeley Way  
Berkeley, CA 94703

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** rachel bradley [rachelbradleywood@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 1:49 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** off-leash dog area at Cesar Chavez Park

Dear Commissioners:

I strongly support fencing the off-leash dog area, and moving it to the southeastern corner of Cesar Chavez Park.

This plan would be the best option for dogs, people, and wildlife. Currently, unleashed dogs often roam outside the designated area, chasing wildlife and causing conflicts with people on the trails.

Moving and fencing the off-leash area will address the foxtail problem while ensuring that Cesar Chavez Park is a safe and welcoming place for wildlife, and for those Berkeley residents who love wildlife.

Yours truly,  
Rachel Bradley

**From:** Eddie Flayer [eddie.flayer@att.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 2:04 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** fence off the off leash dog area

Or send the damn dogs and their owners to Point Isabel. Love dogs, but not their stupid owners. The dogs shit on everything, owners don't clean it up. Dogs get in the way of cyclists and chase birds.

Thanks for listening.

Eddie Flayer  
Berkeley, CA

**From:** Wendy Lydia [huanghoben@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 3:16 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Off-leash dog area at Cesar Chavez Park

Commissioner,

I have lived in Berkeley for 23 years and I often visit the park. I want to encourage you to: 1) provide a fenced area for off-leash dog use; and 2) locate it away from valuable wildlife areas. Many people let their dogs off-leash in the on-leash areas and I find free running dogs unnerving. They also chase birds (and squirrels) which is also undesirable. A fenced area will make it clearer for dog walkers and everyone else as to where dogs must be on-leash. The park is a great community asset and provides wildlife habitat and it is unfair to allow the minority of dog walkers make the experience unpleasant the rest of us. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Lydia Huang, 1216 Milvia St, Berkeley, CA 94709

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Andi Cassidy [2berk2@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 3:18 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Off leash area at Cesar Chavez Park

Please make the off leash dog area fenced. Even though we are long time dog owners, it is safer for dogs and children to provide fenced areas for loose dogs. Not all park visitors enjoy being approached by off leash dogs. Certainly many small children are at risk of injury. Please use common sense and provide a fenced dog exercise area. It would allow the safest use of our park for the largest number of visitors.

Thank you

Andrea Cassidy, Sent from my iPhone

**From:** bob flasher [rangerdude333@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 3:25 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Dogs at Cesar Chavez

Parks people,

Instead of spending more taxpayer money on mowing and spreading foxtails, how about building a fence around the off leash dog area like you've done at Ohlone Park and every other city in the world has already done? This would minimize damage to young children, bicyclists, dogs, and local wildlife. With so many potentially conflicting uses, it just makes sense to separate them as much as possible.

Bob Flasher

"Drink coffee. Do stupid things faster."

**From:** Rebecca Osborn Coolidge [bozcool@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 3:30 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** off leash area for dogs

Dear Commissioners:

I support fencing and moving the off-leash dog area to the southeastern corner of Cesar Chavez Park.

This plan would be good for dogs, people, and wildlife. Currently, unleashed dogs often roam outside the designated area, chasing wildlife and causing conflicts with people on the trails.

Moving and fencing the off-leash area will address the foxtail problem while ensuring that Cesar Chavez Park is a safe and welcoming place for wildlife, and for those Berkeley residents who love wildlife.

Yours truly,

Rebecca Osborn-Coolidge

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** David Kessler [kesdavid@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 4:05 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Cesar Chavez Park

Dear Commissioners:

Sometimes there are irreconcilable conflicts between wildlife preservation and pet indulgence. In the case of Cesar Chavez Park, however, it should be easy to segregate the dogs and the endangered birds. Surely this is a win-win situation that a one-time expense of a fence and some signs should suffice solve the vast bulk of the problem. I encourage you to take action to implement the proposed Golden Gate Audubon Society plan.

In peace,

David Kessler, 116 Vicente Road, B, 94705

*"Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est."*

**From:** Elizabeth Powell [espsmf@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 4:15 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Off leash fencing

To the Commission:

I support fencing around the off leash area at Cesar Chavez park. I can't tell you how often I have noticed people ignoring regulations about where to leash and where not to leash. The dogs disrupt birds and people when they run off leash in a prohibited area and their owners often don't have control over them.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Powell

Berkeley

resident

**From:** Lyn Reese [lynreese@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 4:18 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** fence off dogs

Dear Parks & Wildlife Commission,

Please think of ways to better contain the run of off lease dogs in Chavez Park. I've enjoyed walking in places the dogs now run in, and have felt unsafe around them many times. And I know the wildlife around me flees or disappears completely as well.

There must be a better way to let us all enjoy this park I've used for the many years I've lived in Berkeley, Sincerely,

Carolyn Reese

1030 Spruce Street , Berkeley

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Anna Korn [annamkorn@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 4:37 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Off leash area of Cesar Chavez

Dear Berkeley Commissioner,

I am a frequent visitor to Cesar Chavez Park, and enjoy both dogs and birdwatching. My preference for the off-leash areas would be to fence off the area close to the parking lot for the dogs to run free, while keeping them out of areas important to wildlife. I do not support mowing the present off-leash area, as this will only increase the current problem with foxtail barley, causing it to spread. This annoying weed causes injuries to animals by piercing their skin, eyes, noses, and mouths, necessitating prompt and expensive veterinary treatment, to control pain and infections caused by these dangerous foreign bodies.

Sincerely,

Anna M. Korn  
1145 Cedar St  
Berkeley CA 94702

**From:** Susan Greef [susan.greef@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 4:52 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Off-Leash Dog area at Cesar Chavez park

Hello,

I am a Berkeley resident and I support fencing and moving the off-leash dog area in CCP to another location in the park. My main concern is for the wildlife that is potentially threatened by off-leash dogs running around where they should not be.

Thank you,  
Susan Greef, Berkeley

**From:** sheila goldmacher [sheinaleah@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 4:55 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** protect the wildlife

I walk at Cesar Chavez Park many times a month as a resident of Berkeley. I go there for the scenic beauty, the wildlife and NOT FOR UNLEASHED DOGS. Please do not allow dogs to be unleashed at this heavily used and visited park. The wildlife, in particular the migratory birds deserve to be protected as they are living creatures and give so much back to the humans that have so denigrated so much of the planet they too inhabit.

thank you for your attention to this matter.

sheila goldmacher, age 81 and an appreciative bird watcher

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Morton Paley [mortonpaley@rocketmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 6:27 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** golden\_gate\_audubon\_society@mail.vresp.com  
**Subject:** Dogs at Cesar Chavez Park

My wife and I enjoy walking in Cesar Chavez Park. We start at the south end of the Doubletree parking lot, walk across it to the Bay, and then do a loop around the park, passing the burrowing owl area (and trying to glimpse one), and continuing along the Bay past the hotel to where we're parked. It takes us about 45 minutes. This walk takes us through off-leash and on-leash only areas.

We have observed that most people follow the rules, but a few don't, and dogs sometimes run out of the on-leash area and into the off-leash area, whether or not their owners mean them to do so.

The joy that dogs have in going off-leash is evident, and they should continue to have this, while the wildlife in the on-leash area should be protected. The way to do this is to move the off-leash area as far as possible from the protected part of the park, and to erect a gated fence between the two.

Sincerely yours, Morton D. Paley

646 Vincente Avenue  
Berkeley 94707

**From:** Stephanie Manning [stephaniepoetry@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 6:59 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Off-Leash Dog Area at Cesar Chavez Park

Dear Commissioners:

I support fencing and moving the off-leash dog area to the southeastern corner of Cesar Chavez Park.

This plan would be good for dogs, people, and wildlife. Currently, unleashed dogs often roam outside the designated area, chasing wildlife and causing conflicts with people on the trails.

As an avid birder, I wish to see a large portion of the park protected for the benefit of wildlife. Recently, I observed an unleashed dog chasing down a black oystercatcher, which is a wonderful black bird with a thick bright orange beak. This bird was terrified and was forced to scramble away along the shoreline to escape the dog. This is just wrong. I believe the resident burrowing owls left the park due to off-leash dog presence. In addition, there are white-tailed kites that frequent this area, as well as crows, hawks and a myriad of other species.

Moving and fencing the off-leash area will address the foxtail problem while ensuring that Cesar Chavez Park is a safe and welcoming place for wildlife, and for those Berkeley residents who love wildlife.

Yours truly, Stephanie Manning - long-time user of the park since before it was a park

## Miller, Roger

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**From:** Molly Sullivan [mollysss@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 8:22 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Dog area at Cesar Chavez

Dear Berkeley Parks & Waterfront Commission --

We are so delighted that you are revisiting the design of the Dog Area at Cesar Chavez Park. We would be at the Hearing, because this is of great interest to us, but we are out of the country right now.

Berkeley is so much better a place now in terms of dogs -- than when I (Molly) moved here over 55 years ago. No dogs running up to frightened children & knocking them over, no poop in public spaces, no bicyclists being chased, few dogs being hit by cars. Dogs are generally on leash & under control. Except at Cesar Chavez.

My husband, Philip Monrad, & I frequently take 3 of our young grandchildren to Cesar Chavez. It is a great park for all of us. But. The dogs can be problematic in several ways. Running up to the little ones can be frightening. Dog poop is not confined to the off leash area at all. It feels unclear where dogs should be off leash & where we can safely go. The top of the hill is always a lovely destination, but we always wonder where is ok & where is not?

We know that there are various proposals being presented, and the one that we feel is most important to implement is to have a fenced, off-leash area.

Dogs & their owners should clearly have an off-leash place at the park, and we believe it should be fenced to clearly define the space & to prevent excited dogs from wandering. If the fenced off-leash space were adjacent to the parking area, that would be great. As a former dog owner I know how tempting it is to let your dog(s) off leash right away when you get out of the car so that they can run & explore & join their buddies.

I also feel a terrific concern for the wildlife at Cesar Chavez. Off-leash dogs are not compatible with birds & other wildlife. As you probably know, bird watching is great at Cesar Chavez! Wildlife areas, which are not abundant in the City should not be compromised.

Philip Monrad & Molly Sullivan  
1639 Virginia Street  
Berkeley CA 94703

Molly Sullivan, Ph.D Clinical Psychology PSY 14382



## Miller, Roger

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**From:** Jenifer Steele [jenifersteele@me.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 8:28 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Cesar Chavez Park

Dear Commissioners:

I support fencing and moving the off-leash dog area to the southeastern corner of Cesar Chavez Park.

This may be politically incorrect, but as a dog owner, I am shocked at how Berkeley residents expect their dogs to be treated like their children, given every accommodation and having their negative points forgiven. We humans are in charge here. We should be able to decide what the restrictions on dogs should be. An off-leash area is a nice thing for a dog, even if it isn't THE BEST off-leash area that could be found. I think we should give our wildlife THE BEST areas because they cannot adapt the way dogs can. And they are in greater danger of extinction.

Moving and fencing the off-leash area will address the foxtail problem while ensuring that Cesar Chavez Park is a safe and welcoming place for wildlife, and for those Berkeley residents who love wildlife.

Yours truly,

Jenifer Steele

2411 Jefferson Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94703

**From:** Learnfodder [learnfodder@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 8:40 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Off leash area at Chavez

Thank you for reading my letter. I am concerned about the location of the off leash area. I was just looking at a map of the park and wondering why it was so close to the owl area when I heard that relocating it further away from the owls is under consideration. I love seeing dogs have a place to run off leash, but we have Pt. Isabel and the dog park on Hearst. The bird situation is so over challenged by global warming that anything we can do to help them out seems the only course to me. Is there another area of Chavez that can be earmarked for off leash dogs? When I walk there, loose dogs are very distracting--it's not like they need a view--lol. And , moving the dog area closer to the parking lots makes it easier on dog owners, too.

Yvonne Schwartz  
Long Time Berkeley Resident

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Isaac Nicholson [isn8@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 11:05 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Cesar Chavez Park Dog Area

Dear Commissioners,

I support fencing and moving the off-leash dog area to the southeastern corner of Cesar Chavez Park.

This plan would be good for dogs, people, and wildlife. Currently, unleashed dogs often roam outside the designated area, chasing wildlife and causing conflicts with people on the trails.

I use the park approximately twice a month year round. Kite flying at the top of the hill. Playing soccer with my young son. Riding bikes around the perimeter path. And picnics with my wife and son. There are many off leash dogs all over the park all the time. One of the unfortunate byproducts of this is dog poop all over the park. For example, the southeast corner, the proposed off leash area, is covered in poop. Take a walk around the grassy area in the southeast corner and try and avoid it. This is not currently a designated off leash area. Part of the problem is a lack of a clearly demarcated off leash area. Another aspect of the problem is dog owners releasing their dogs from leashes as they enter the park, long before reaching the off leash area.

Moving and fencing the off-leash area will address the foxtail problem while ensuring that Cesar Chavez Park is a safe and welcoming place for wildlife, and for those Berkeley residents who love wildlife.

I remember the park when it was the city dump. It is a marvel that it is now a beautiful park which our community can be proud of. The dog-owners, collectively, have not done a good job of taking care of their dogs or respecting other users of the park. It would be an improvement if they had a segregated area for their animals to run off leash.

Sincerely,

Isaac

Nicholson  
Berkeley, California

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Naomi Lidicker [lidicker@berkeley.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 9:40 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Fence & Off-leash area

Dear Parks and Waterfront Commission:

I support fencing and moving the off-leash area as suggested by Golden Gate Audubon. Fence the off-leash area for the safety of non-dog people and relocate it closer to car parking at the southeast corner of the park.

Thank you. Naomi  
Lidicker

**From:** Mari Vlastos [marijean40@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 9:55 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** need to monitor dogs and fence off unleashed portion of Chavez Park

PLEASE follow Audubon's suggestions for trying to protect vulnerable burrowing owls from dogs by fencing off the unleashed dog area!

But also, monitoring of dogs needs to be added! Too often I have seen unleashed dogs, with indifferent owners, rampaging over their nesting area.

Thank you—

Mari Vlastos  
1221 Queens Road  
Berkeley

**From:** Franz Snyder [franzsnyder@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 1:54 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Off Leash Area, Caesar Chavez

I support the GG Audubon's recommendation for fencing the no-leash dog area closer to parking rather than creating the area where "wilderness" should remain undisturbed. Thank you.

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Polly Strahan [pollystrahan@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 5:06 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** dog park at Cesar Chavez Park

Dear Commissioners:

I support fencing and moving the off-leash dog area to the southeastern corner of Cesar Chavez Park.

This plan would be good for dogs, people, and wildlife. Currently, unleashed dogs often roam outside the designated area, chasing wildlife and causing conflicts with people on the trails.

**I am a former resident of Berkeley, and a dog owner.**

Moving and fencing the off-leash area will address the foxtail problem while ensuring that Cesar Chavez Park is a safe and welcoming place for wildlife, and for those Berkeley residents who love wildlife.

Yours truly,

Polly

Strahan

**From:** Karen McLellan [mclellan.karen@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 6:29 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Dogs, Birds, and public space

I'm writing to support relocating and fencing of dog park area of Chavez Park.

**From:** Carolyn Roundey [croundey@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 7:52 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Cesar Chavez Park, off leash dogs

Dear City of Berkeley,

I am both a member of Golden Gate Audubon and a dog owner. I respectfully disagree with the stance taken by GGA!

They did no poll of their members.

**Miller, Roger**

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Further, I do not think they have done any actual surveying of the park or made observations on any scientific basis as to the roaming of off-leash dogs!

I have observed at many different times of day, dogs off-leash in the off-leash areas and a very, very few owners who allow their dogs to be off-leash in leashed areas. The vast majority of dog owners are responsible and keep their dogs on leash if they are walking in the leash areas.

Most of us who enjoy the off leash area do so because it allows us owners and our dogs to walk on varying terrain, where no ground squirrels are there to distract our dogs. The dogs run and smell and can tell they are in an open space. Those who enjoy interacting with other dogs do so and those who don't are able to avoid contact easily. The same goes for their human owners. Many of us enjoy the walk, the wind, the fog, the scenery and atmosphere. What makes Cesar Chavez different is that we are not confined to a fenced in area where we are forced to run into each other and each other's dogs and where we have no variety of scenery.

I would venture to guess that on week days the majority of folks at Cesar Chavez are dog owners!

Lastly, I would note that the GGAS doesn't even seem to know that the Great Blue Heron that frequents the park is most often stationed just where the proposed fenced in area would be!

What's next, fences for the model airplanes which vie with the birds for air space? or for the kites?

GGAS does not speak for me on this issue!!

Yours truly,

Carolyn Roundey

2737 Mathews Street

Berkeley, CA 94702

**From:** Pam Shandrick [pamshandrick@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 10:03 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Cesar Chavez park

Hi!  
I'm weighing in on the dog issue at the park. I support fencing the dog area and moving it close to the parking area. Please give our precious Bay Area wildlife a chance to thrive and prosper in this tough urban environment.  
Thanks for your attention. Pam shandrick  
Sent from my iPhone

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Yvonne Madera-Jaffe [ymaderajaffe@ecmhp.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 3:08 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Support

I support the fencing and moving of dog park in Cesar Chavez

Park. Thank You,

Yvonne Madera-Jaffe

**From:** Ebuhrmann [ebuhrmann@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 5:43 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Dogs @ Cesar Chavez

Hello, I am a Berkeley resident of many years and have enjoyed Chavez park immensely. It is used by many: both people and animals, both wild & domesticated. It is amazing that burrowing owls & barn owls still come & nest there, especially since dog owners do not respect or follow the rules about leashes. The current "separate" areas for pets & wild animals has never worked to the benefit of the wildlife. I have seen numerous dogs chasing wildlife there. It is time for pets to have a safe and FENCED area away from the most sensitive wildlife areas, that is, the north and west sides of the park. This is where owls and other birds nest and shorebirds feed. Dogs can be kept safe from foxtails and cars and wildlife can be more secure. Please do the right thing and really separate them!

Erica Buhrmann