



Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wheat Ridge to Celebrate the Opening of New Off-Leash Dog Park

WHEAT RIDGE – The City of Wheat Ridge will be hosting a Grand Opening Celebration for the off-leash dog park at Fruitdale Park located at 4700 Miller St. on Saturday, October 22, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. There will be refreshments on hand for humans and canines as well as an “Official Leash Cutting”.

Mayor Jerry DiTullio said, “The opening of the off-leash dog park is a great example of a collaborative process. Several groups consisting of citizens, elected officials and staff worked together to bring this great amenity to the City of Wheat Ridge.”

The process that led to the creation of an off-leash dog park began in March of 2010 with the formation of a Citizen Task Force to make recommendations to the Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department. The Task Force examined issues such as possible locations, site amenities and park rules and regulations. They were also responsible for creating a volunteer committee to help with oversight and monitoring of the park after its creation.

Rick Murray with the Parks and Recreation Department said, “The original Task Force consisted of highly dedicated members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Animal Welfare Commission, interested citizens and Parks and Recreation staff. The project has also enjoyed great support from City Council.”

The new park will provide citizens in Wheat Ridge a new place to socialize and to safely and legally exercise their dogs off leash. The City’s Community Service Officers plan to use it as part of their educational outreach with citizens. Mary McKenna, Community Services Supervisor, said “The park gives us the ability to offer a legal alternative to pet owners who have been contacted for off-leash violations. In the past we did not have that option.”

The off-leash dog park at Fruitdale Park is approximately 2 acres in size and is located in the northeast area of Fruitdale Park at 4700 Miller St. The dog park has ADA access and is situated within the existing crusher fine trail loop. The off leash area is surrounded by a 6 ft. fence which is consistent with many other existing dog parks to contain larger dogs. The dog park is accessed through a series of gates that allows dogs to be contained while being taken off leash. A divider fence separates a large dog area from a small dog area.

The dog park will be open to the public daily from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. All dogs must be licensed and current on vaccinations. Dog owners and handlers are asked to comply with the posted rules and regulations. Failure to abide by the park rules may result in a summons to court or a loss of privileges. For information regarding mandatory dog licensing check out the City's website at <http://www.ci.wheatridge.co.us/index.aspx?nid=240>.

Fruitdale Park has an established parking lot, restroom and water source available on the north end of the park. Future amenities include a shade shelter, information kiosk, solar lighting and plans for tree plantings for additional shade.

For more information regarding the off-leash dog park, please contact Rick Murray, Parks, Forestry and Open Space Manager at 303-205-7551 or via email at rmurray@ci.wheatridge.co.us.

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