

### INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

June 02, 2014

**MEMO TO:** Ruffin Hall  
City Manager

**FROM:** Wayne Schindler, Parks Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Budget Note 02 – Deployment of Dog Waste Stations

**Introduction**

At the City Council meeting on January 21, 2014, Council Member Crowder asked the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department (PRCR) to consider funding in the FY15 budget for deployment and maintenance of dog waste stations across the parks system.

The following information is provided regarding current deployment of and responsibility for dog waste stations and potential costs for installation of new stations and provision of dog waste bags system wide.

**Current Deployment**

Outside of the city’s three off-leash dog parks at Millbrook, Oakwood and Carolina Pines which each have dog waste stations managed by citizen volunteers, there are 50 dog waste stations located in 25 parks. Sixteen park locations are currently managed by citizen volunteers through the department’s Adopt-a-Park Program. The Adopt-a-Park program is an annual voluntary agreement between PRCR and citizens to assist and maintain parks and trails. A breakdown is provided below:

<u>Park Location</u>	<u>Number of Stations</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>
Isabella Cannon	2	University Park Homeowners
Pollock Place Park	1	University Park Homeowners
Beaverdam Open Space	1	University Park Homeowners
Mayview Green/Fairall at Mayview	2	University Park Homeowners
Raleigh Rose Garden	2	University Park Homeowners
Chamberlain St. Park	1	University Park Homeowners
Jaycee Park	2	University Park Homeowners
Fallon Park	5	Fallon Park Garden Club/Staff
Baileywick Park	1	Citizen Volunteer
Kaplan Drive Park	1	Citizen Volunteer
Oakwood Common	1	Citizen Volunteer
Roanoke Park	1	Citizen Volunteer

Meadowbrook Open Space	1	Citizen Volunteer
Eastgate Park	1	Citizen Volunteer
Marshall St. Open Space	1	Citizen Volunteer
Culpepper Circle	1	Citizen Volunteer
Lake Johnson Park	4	Staff
Buffalo Rd. Athletic Park	5	Staff
Nash Square	1	Staff
Moore Square	6	Staff
Chavis Park	4	Staff
Top Greene Park	1	Staff
Horseshoe Farm Park	1	Staff
Spring Forest Rd. Park	2	Staff
Brentwood Park	2	Staff

With the exception of Fallon Park, dog waste bags are provided by the neighborhood groups or citizen volunteers as part of their Adopt-a-Park agreement. The University Park Homeowners Association secured a private donation to cover the cost of bags for their stations for the upcoming year. The department does purchase and provide dog waste bags for the 26 stations it manages.

The current cost of a dog waste station is \$30.00 per unit. The station is typically mounted on a standard u-channel post. The unit cost does not include a specific receptacle for depositing of used bags. The department will generally co-locate a dog waste station at an existing trash receptacle for efficiency. In some cases a trash receptacle will be added adjacent to the station. Cost of our standard park trash receptacle is \$509 per unit.

Dog waste bags are \$50.00/case - 2,000 bags per case. Current annual cost of bags per department managed station is approximately \$250.00 (five cases/year) or \$6,500 per year for 26 stations.

### **System-wide Deployment Strategy**

Number and location of dog waste stations will depend on park type and use. As an example, a more heavily used community park like Millbrook Exchange would require several stations, while a small open space park like Berkshire Downs would require a single station.

Assuming approximately four stations per Metro Park, three stations per typical Community Park and two per typical Neighborhood Park, a total of 114 dog waste stations would be needed at a cost of \$3,420.

If stations were added to our Open Space Parks (linear) like Cowper Drive or West Lake Drive (four at each location, two per side), an additional 36 dog waste stations would be needed at a cost of \$1,080.

Special Parks like Mordecai Historic Square, Vallie Henderson, Hymettus Woods, MLK Gardens, etc. adding one station per site would require approximately 6 stations at \$180.

On our greenway trails, dog waste stations could be located at trailheads or in trail access parking lots. Intermediate stations could be placed every two miles. Given current system mileage, approximately 50 additional stations at a cost of \$1,500 would need to be provided.

*Total anticipated cost for additional dog waste stations: \$6,180.  
Assuming current average use, it would require 1,030 cases of dog waste bags per year to furnish 206 dog waste stations at a cost of \$51,500 (\$50/case x 1030 cases).*

**Total Cost of Deployment:**

New Dog Waste Stations and Bags: \$57,680

Continuation of Current Deployment Staff Managed Stations (bags only): \$6,500

Conversion of Volunteer Managed Stations to Staff Managed (bags only): \$5,500

**PROGRAM COST:** \$69,680 - This does not include cost of additional trash receptacles that might be required or the cost for staff to service.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff continue to establish Adopt-a-Park agreements with volunteer neighborhood groups to service the dog waste stations and, if needed, the department will cover the cost of bags. The department will continue to evaluate additional dog waste stations in parks.

**DOG WASTE DISPENSERS – UNIVERSITY PARK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION –  
REQUEST FOR FUNDING – REFERRED TO BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Sallie Ricks, 2715 Rosedale Avenue, Raleigh, NC read the following statement into the record:

Good afternoon. I am President of University Park Homeowners Association. UPHA is a voluntary organization listed with the City's neighborhood registry. We reach from Cameron Village west to Meredith College and from Hillsborough Street north to Wade Avenue.

I would like to recognize UPHA for the purchase of dog waste bags and for restocking bag dispensers throughout our neighborhood. We are committed to this project because it improves the quality of life for our residents and because it encourages responsible dog ownership.

Of the 50 dog waste bag dispensers throughout the City, our organization is responsible for 11, including two at Jaycee Park and two at the Raleigh Rose Garden. With our organization's leadership, five volunteers refill the 11 dispensers. Last year we spent \$639 on bags, and this year have budgeted \$685. I predict this amount will increase annually.

Please know that the cost of this popular program is not sustainable for our organization. We do not collect annual dues from our members and rely on creative means to fund this project.

May I get some financial assistance from the City to help pay for the waste bags?

Currently, the Raleigh Parks Department purchases bags and refills dispensers at 26 of the 50 stations throughout the City, including Moore Square, Chavis Park, and Lake Johnson. They estimate the annual cost of purchasing waste bags for ALL volunteer managed locations to be \$5,500.

I am requesting financial assistance from you for the purchase of bags for volunteer managed stations on public land. I also ask your assistance for an equitable, low-cost program to provide dog waste bags in University Park and other Raleigh neighborhoods in need, partnering with volunteer organizations such as ours for restocking.

Thank you so much for this consideration and for the opportunity to speak directly to you today.

City Manager Hall stated staff had reviewed the request and agenda backup materials. This request becomes a budget question as well as the treatment of one park v. others. Staff is ready to respond in any way the Council may wish. Staff responded to a question last month related to the same topic, and it was placed as a budget note for FY15. Mr. Crowder said he believes he had requested last month that it be referred to budget work sessions.

REQUEST & PETITION OF CITIZENS TO CITY OF RALEIGH COUNCIL

THE CITY COUNCIL MEETS IN REGULAR SESSION ON THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS OF EACH MONTH. ON THE FIRST TUESDAY, REQUESTS BY CITIZENS WILL BE HEARD DURING THE 7:00 P.M. SESSION; ON THE THIRD TUESDAY, REQUESTS BY CITIZENS WILL BE HEARD DURING THE 1:00 P.M. SESSION, BUT WILL NOT BE HEARD BEFORE 2:00 P.M. REQUESTS BY CITIZENS TO APPEAR ON THE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE CITY CLERK. IN AN EFFORT TO AID THE CITIZENS AND THE CITY COUNCIL, USE OF THIS FORM IS SUGGESTED.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR REMARKS TO THREE (3) MINUTES OR LESS. IF THERE IS ADDITIONAL BACK-UP INFORMATION A CITIZEN WISHES TO PRESENT TO THE CITY COUNCIL, IT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ALONG WITH THIS FORM. ALL INFORMATION SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM BECOMES PUBLIC INFORMATION AND IS SUBJECT TO RELEASE AT THE REQUEST OF THE PUBLIC AND NEWS MEDIA. THANK YOU.

Please PRINT all information: E-MAIL Sallie Ricks@gmail.com  
NAME Sallie Ricks TELEPHONE 919-815-9241  
ADDRESS 2715 Rosedale Ave. Raleigh ZIP 27607  
ORGANIZATION / INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTED: University Park Homeowners Assoc.  
I WISH TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON: March 18, 2014  
(Date of Meeting)

TOPIC: Statement of presentation you wish to make and statement of action you wish Council to take. Attach additional sheets if needed.

I would like to recognize University Park Homeowners Association for purchase + restocking of dog waste bags throughout University Park. I request assistance from the city to develop a fair and equitable program to provide this service throughout the city.

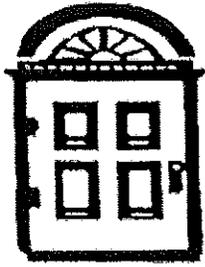
Sallie Ricks  
Signature

**THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED BY TUESDAY, 12:00 NOON, ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED MEETING\*. ONCE THIS FORM IS SUBMITTED, NO FURTHER REMINDER WILL BE GIVEN; IT WILL BE UP TO THE CITIZEN TO ATTEND THE APPROPRIATE MEETING. CITIZENS MAY CALL THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE TO CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THEIR FORM AND SUBMITTAL TO THE APPROPRIATE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA DATE AND TIME.**

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO: CITY CLERK & TREASURER MAIL TO: P. O. BOX 590  
222 W. HARGETT ST., SUITE 207 RALEIGH, NC 27602  
RALEIGH, NC 27601  
(919) 996-3040 8:30 A.M. - 5:15 P.M.  
FAX (919) 996-7620

\*NOTE: IF A HOLIDAY FALLS IN THE TIME FRAME, PLEASE CALL THE CLERK'S OFFICE TO DETERMINE DEADLINE.

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# University Park Homeowners Association

March 18, 2014

I would like to recognize University Park Homeowners Association for the purchase and restocking of dog waste bags throughout our neighborhood.

Of approximately 50 dispensers installed by our City Parks Department throughout the city, our organization is responsible for restocking 11 dog waste dispensers, including 2 at Jaycee Park, and 2 at the Raleigh Rose Garden, both destination parks. Five volunteers refill the dispensers in University Park.

Last year UPHA spent \$639 for purchase of bags, and this year we have budgeted \$685 and with anticipation of continual annual increases. This is not sustainable financially since UPHA does not collect annual dues. Our total annual budget for 2013 was \$2150.

Two years ago, UPHA applied for and received a Neighborhood Improvement Grant of \$250 but we cannot apply again for dog waste bags since it is a continuing project and therefore, not eligible again.

Raleigh Parks Department purchases bags and refills dispensers at 26 of the 50 stations throughout the city including Moore Square, Chavis Park, Lake Johnson. See attached data.

The Department estimates the annual cost to purchase bags for all current volunteer managed stations is \$5500.

I request assistance from you for a creative, low cost, equitable solution with multiple partnership sources, to provide dog waste bags and dispensers in University Park and other neighborhoods in need.

Thank you.

Sallie Ricks  
President, University Park Homeowners Association