

Hello and thank you for having me here.

My name is Audra Harajda and I have lived at Dover Cres since 2002. I was so excited when I found out about having a dog park so close by. What I wasn't expecting was that the dog park was also a great way to meet and hang out with other condo owners as well as their dogs. Every evening at 6:45 pm my little one sits in front of the T.V. and stares at me with her tail wagging with her best "mom, its time to go to the park," look on her face. So off we go with me being dragged by an excited puppy wanting to play with her friends.

Well now that the park has been removed, 6:45 pm is not the same in our household.

I am writing to you today because I am bothered that there was not a forum established to address concerns and make solutions that would make everyone happy.

One concern, and reason for the park being closed, was that of the noise of the barking dogs. This is nothing new, the dogs have barked in and around that area, and they are still going to bark every now again while playing etc even though the park has been removed. With regards to the noise I have a few things to say. We deal with noise in our area on a daily basis. We have noisy geese, birds, playing/ screaming children, tennis players, soccer players, people playing basketball, even before the park opens. We live near the river and we hear the float planes and big planes, as well as people walking along the dyke. This is just reality living in the beautiful area that we live in. We also deal with the garbage trucks, recycling, mowing lawns, people doing renovations and cars driving down the road at all times of the day and night.

Another concern about the park was increased cars. Well it is a public park, we have cars coming and going all the time. A lot of them have their engines revving and stereos booming. The dog park certainly didn't increase this fact. We have always had numerous driving schools using this area to teach their clients how to parallel park. Parking has always been difficult in this area. The dog park is essential used by the people who live in this area, so it really doesn't seem reasonable to blame the dog park.

As a taxpayer and licensed dog owner, I feel that the park is big enough to accommodate all involved as well as the fenced-in dog park for our four legged children. The park is open from 7 am - 11 pm and we as dog owners abided by that time frame. The dog park was not busy all of the time, it was mostly used for those of us who work and wanted to take our dogs to a safe place to play and run around where they didn't have to worry about traffic and other dangers after our workday. It does not make sense for the park to be closed down due to barking as there has always been the odd dog barking and there is noise in the park from many different

sources at Dover Cres. To get rid of noise we would have to close down the whole park. Most of us just realize that the sound of playing children etc is just part of being part of this community. As a dog owner, I just want my dog to have the same privilege as the children in the community do.

Five minutes is not long enough to tell you of how awesome the dog park was. It was not only fun for the dogs but it was fun for us humans as well. The park really did help the community become more of a community. Not just segregated building to building but as whole community with everyone.

I hope you will listen to what we have presented to you and that you have a change of heart and mind. I hope you find a little corner in the park that can be dedicated to dogs and their owners, so that the dogs can enjoy the park just as so many others do.

Thank you for your time.