



**To:** Park Board

**Agenda Item #:** VI.B.

**From:** Susan Faus  
Parks and Recreation Assistant Director

**Action**   
**Discussion**   
**Information**

**Date:** April 9, 2013

**Subject:** Off Leash Area Pilot Hockey Rink Recommendation

### **Action Requested:**

Staff requests that the Park Board recommend a park for a seasonal pilot off leash area for dogs in a hockey rink. Park Board would then host a public hearing at the May Park Board meeting.

### **Information / Background:**

At the February 12 Park Board meeting, per a resident request, Director Kattreh introduced the idea of adding an off leash area at one of the hockey rinks. Park Board requested that staff determine two locations that would be the ideal locations for this pilot. At the March 12 Park Board meeting Director Kattreh recommended two possible locations, Highlands Park and Pamela Park. After further research staff determined the neither of those suggested locations would work well with our current recreational and athletic programming.

The parks listed below are not recommended for the following reasons:

- **Highlands Park-5200 Doncaster Way**
  - The rink is very close to the warming house building. Highlands Park also hosts a summer playground program. Soccer camps, soccer practices and flag football use the park. Parking is limited when the fields are being used.
- **Pamela Park-4303 W. 58th St.**
  - Football, softball, soccer, summer playgrounds, Skyhawks camps all use this park. The park is very busy and parking is limited.
- **Arden Park-5230 Minnehaha Blvd.**
  - Parking is an issue. The only available parking is street parking. We have a 6-week playground program with 115 kids. With the location of the rink dogs and owners would walk directly past kids playing.
- **Cornelia School Park-7142 Cornelia Dr.**
  - Dogs and owners would walk directly by our summer playground participants. We have 105 kids in the playground program and there is also baseball played during the day. In the summer 2013 the parking lot will be redone.

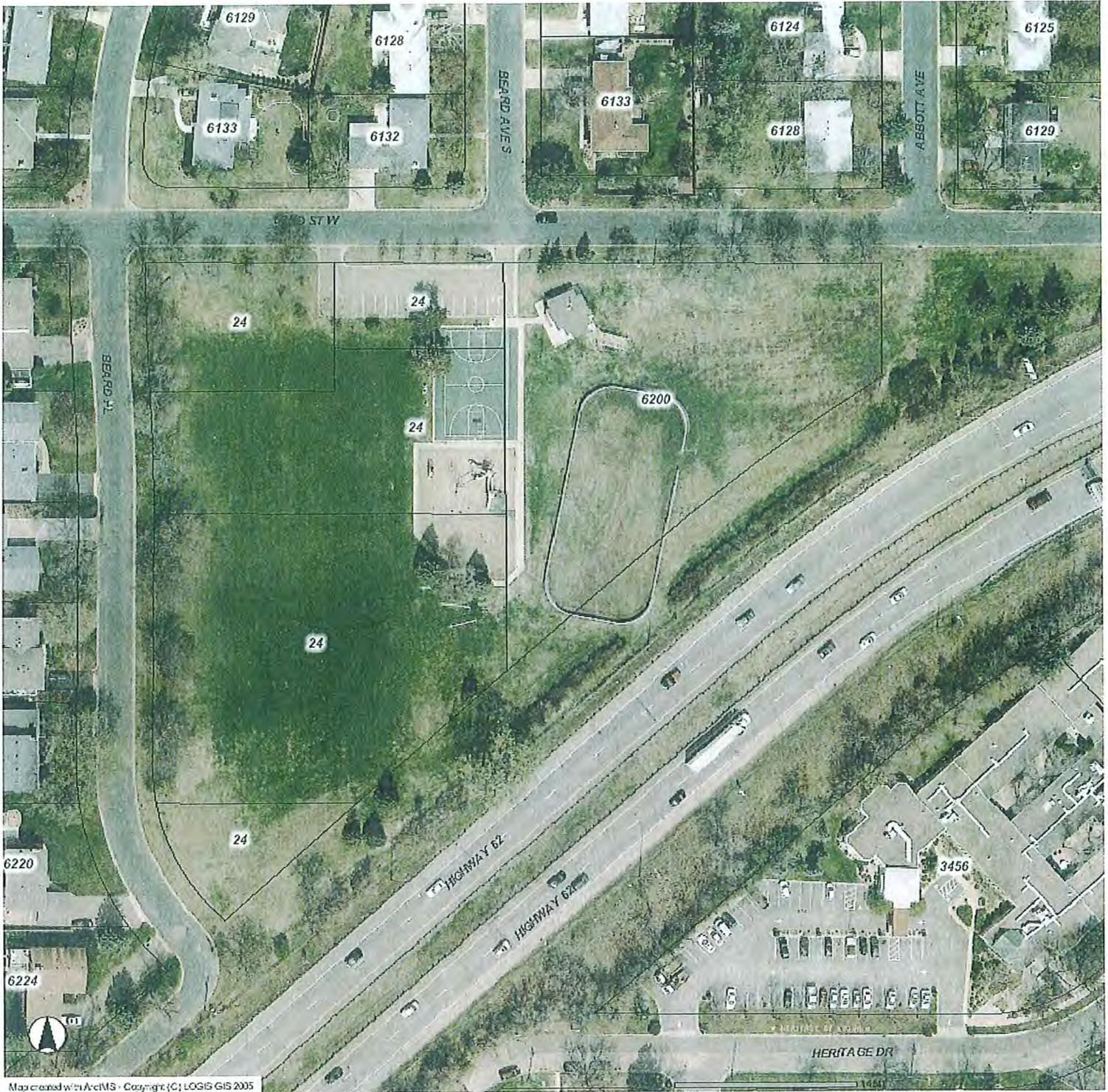
- **Normandale Park**-6501 Warren Ave. So.
  - Parking is limited. There is day time and night time baseball. We have 75 kids a day at our summer playground program and they use the rinks for games. The rink is very close to the building.
- **Walnut Ridge**-5801 Londonderry Rd.
  - Playground programs use the rink for games. Lacrosse has games in this neighborhood park. Parking is limited and often overflows onto the street.
- **Weber Park**-4115 Grimes Ave. So.
  - An extremely busy park. We have 75 kids in the afternoon playground program, day time baseball, and other activities. Soccer and slow pitch softball teams use the park in the evening. Parking could be an issue.
- **Lewis Park** – 7300 Cahill Rd.
  - The hockey rink has an asphalt base.
- **Creek Valley Park** - 6301 Gleason Rd.
  - We tried to add a small dog park there a few years ago and faced opposition from residents. Great location if the residents would approve. We would recommend this location be an option for 2014.
- **Countryside Park**-6240 Tracy Ave. So.
  - After park improvements (including a new hockey rink) are completed in 2013 this would be a nice location for a second off leash dog area.

Staff recommends Strachauer Park as the proposed location for the pilot off leash seasonal dog area. The location is easily accessible and conveniently located on the east side of Edina. The hockey rink is full sized with a grass/sand surface. We do not have any playground programs that utilize this location during the summer. Parking is available.

Staff is requesting your approval for the location at Strachauer Park for the seasonal off leash area. With your recommendation we would hold a public hearing at the Park Board meeting in May. If approved by the Park Board in May, we will work with our Parks Maintenance team to add a gate and appropriate signage as soon as possible.

Attachments:

Strachauer Park Aerial Map



# Strachauer Park