



Meridian Dog Park: April 5, 2010

The City of Meridian takes great pride in its park system to include amenities, open space, and an acceptable environment for use of all our facilities. When the Bark Park opened to the public, it was an interim solution to the public's desire for an off-leash area for dogs. We have been amazed by the heavy use and declining conditions of the facility as a result.

This area was originally built as a K-9 training facility for the Police Department. The facility meets the training needs of our Police Department and its intended purpose has not changed. Unfortunately, extended use by the public requires offsite training of K-9 officers. In consideration of the desires of the public, we set a restricted schedule for our Bark Park and K-9 Training Facility to sustain the condition of the grounds and joint use. At this time, we intend to keep the current schedule in place, and reevaluate the schedule as conditions improve during the grass-growing season. This will allow the facility to be used as originally intended and help sustain park conditions. This is essential to allow continued use of the facility for all groups.

Last winter the City established a Dog Park Task Force to explore options to add a new dog park facility and additional acreage in the near future. Our goal is to provide parks with amenities that we are not only proud of but stand the test of time for future generations. Sufficient facilities and enduring conditions are paramount to having a park system that makes our citizens proud. If you would like additional information on how you can help, please contact the Meridian Parks Department.

Sincerely,

Jeff Lavey
Chief of Police

Steve Siddoway
Parks and Recreation Director