

Wheelwright Designated Pet Area Q & A

Q. Why have a designated pet area?

A. Wheelwright Cluster is home to approximately 20 dogs (currently dogs outnumber children). There are no places within the Cluster designed for pets to play.

Q. Where would the pet area be located?

A. Several locations have been proposed: (1) at the current tot lot location; (2) in the center island in the Upper Cluster; (3) at the bottom of the Reston Path between 2256 and 2258.

Q. Why consider taking down the tot lot?

A. The tot lot does not get much use by residents. Feedback is that the area is damp and attracts spiders and mosquitoes. Additionally, the tot lot has become a hangout for people who do not live in Wheelwright Cluster for smoking and drinking at night, which is not desirable. It is believed that a pet area would get more use than the tot lot does currently.

Q. What would happen to the tot lot equipment?

A. The equipment could be sold, donated, or relocated to another part of the Cluster.

Q. What will it cost to construct the pet area?

A. The cost is unknown at this time – the board is currently seeking input to decide whether the project moves forward at all.

Q. Has Reston Association approved the designated pet area?

A. Unknown at this time – the board is currently seeking input to decide whether the project moves forward at all.

Q. Will pets be allowed to be off leash while in the pet area?

A. Yes, provided they are not aggressive toward other pets.

Q. What keeps people other than Wheelwright residents from using the pet area?

A. The pet area will be enclosed by a fence. The fence will have a gate with a combination padlock – only Wheelwright residents will have the combination.

Q. Will the pet area be smelly?

A. Details have yet to be determined, but the area will be well drained and have rules regarding pickup of pet waste – so there should be no unpleasant odors.

Q. Who will ensure the poop gets picked up?

A. Pet owners will be responsible for cleaning up after their pets and encouraged to leave the space cleaner than they found it. Historically these types of spaces are “self-policed”.

Q. Can pets be left unsupervised in the enclosure?

A. No. All pets must be supervised at all times.

Q. Will I be bothered by dogs barking at all hours of the night?

A. Signs will be posted limiting use to daylight hours, e.g. 8am – 8pm. Dogs playing should be no louder than children playing.

Q. Can children play inside the pet area?

A. If they are supervised by an adult, children may enter the pet area to play with their own pets. The area is not intended to be a playground.

Q. What if pets don't get along?

A. Entrance to the pet area is at each person's own risk. Encounters between pets should be handled on a neighbor-to-neighbor basis. A dog that is behaving aggressively to other pets or humans will be asked to leave, immediately.

Q. Will this affect our home values?

A. Nothing is certain, but for some prospective buyers this will be an attractive amenity and might increase home values.

Q. Will this affect our insurance premiums?

A. If the tot lot is replaced with a pet area, our insurance values will decrease.

Q. Are there legal issues we need to be concerned about?

A. Ami Pape, attorney for the Wheelwright Cluster, has been consulted. According to Ms. Pape, we have sufficient liability coverage and there is nothing in the county land records or on the Subdivision Plats that would prohibit us from taking down the tot lot and replacing it with another amenity.