

On Mon, Oct 15, 2018, 9:07 AM Thomas M. Wilentz <onilam@optonline.net> wrote:

Dear Mayor and Village Trustees,

I write to express my opposition to a dog park in Drake Field. My home abuts Drake Field, which is a nice, open space that is used by residents of the area for various recreational and leisure activities. It is a place for playing ball, setting up a hammock and spending a quiet afternoon reading, for picnics, and also a place where some residents bring their dogs. But a dog park as a designated use would be very problematic – it would turn Drake Field from a shared open outdoor space welcoming to all residents to a space dedicated almost exclusively for use by dogs and dog owners. It also has the potential to draw non-residents – people from outside the neighborhood---into the neighborhood to make use of the dog park. This means more cars, more traffic, more dogs, more dog waste, and other issues such as rats that follow in the wake of the dogs to eat left-over treats.

Dogs are wonderful animals. However, they do impose certain constraints on the quiet enjoyment of property by neighbors of those who own them. They bark and they urinate everywhere, plus they leave their droppings all over, and much as the law of the village requires owners to scoop the poop, the poop is unfortunately, often not scooped. Unscooped dog feces is already hazard in Drake Field. Encouraging dog owners from outside of the neighborhood to bring their dogs to Drake Field would exacerbate the situation.

Besides the negative impact a dog park would have on the quality of life in the neighborhood due to increased traffic, congestion, dog noise and excrement, rats and parasites in the park and surrounding areas, and loss of use of the park for purposes other than as a dog park, it will negatively affect the value of property in the Drake-Edgewood area. At the moment, living near Drake Field is a plus. Children play in the park. It is beautiful in a different way each season. It is a quiet space for quiet enjoyment. If it is turned into a dog park all that will be lost. Drake Field will become a negative factor for the entire Edgewood neighborhood, and most especially for those homeowners like myself whose homes abut Drake Field. The overall quality of life in the neighborhood, and thus the Village of Scarsdale, will go down. A dog park in Drake Field is simply a very bad idea.

Tom Wilentz

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