

For immediate release
November 1, 2007

Kinzie, Kruzan discuss Griffy Dog Park and lake master plan

Democratic District 2 City Council candidate Jillian Kinzie and Mayor Mark Kruzan, joined by "City Spokespets" Stormy and Echo Kruzan, today announced their intent to pursue building a Griffy Dog Park and outlined their support of the lake Master Plan.

"Going door-to-door, I have heard from many citizens that they would like to see this area made safe and secure for pet and person, alike," Kinzie said. "I spoke with Mayor Kruzan, and here we are, today."

"For many years, Griffy Lake has been home to an unofficial yet extremely popular dog park," Kruzan said. "The City's Urban Forestry Division recently planted four new trees -- a White Pine and three Swamp White Oaks -- at the site to provide shade for visitors, so we are already taking steps to enhance the user experience. Our next step is to make it an official park, with proper fencing, amenities and procedures so more of our significant, dog-loving community can enjoy the facility in a safer environment."

Kinzie noted there has been a proliferation of dog parks opening across the United States in recent years. From San Francisco to Minneapolis, park districts and departments are setting aside green space in existing parks where dogs can interact with other dogs and people and can run off-leash.

Kinzie noted that the benefits of such a facility to the community are many. Dog parks:

- Socialize and exercise dogs in a safe environment.
- Promote responsible pet guardianship.
- Enable dogs to legally run off-leash.
- Promote public health and safety.
- Provide social interaction for pet owners.

"Griffy Lake is one of the most beautiful and important resources our District 2 residents, our entire community and visitors can enjoy," Kinzie said.

"Adding an official dog park as an amenity, along with continued management and maintenance to the Griffy Lake watershed, will ensure it continues to serve as a recreation site in this community for many more years to come."

Kinzie and Kruzan said that the precise location for the dog park will be determined as part of the Nature Preserve's long-term strategic plan.

The Griffy Lake Master Plan is underway and will be completed in 2008. The plan will feature a long-range vision for usage and development of the preserve, plus suggestions as to the most advisable locations for a dog park within the Griffy area. Locations range from the current location of the unofficial dog park on the North Dunn side of Griffy to a place in nearby Ferguson Park or the adjacent the Rumble property, all of which take advantage of the parking and natural amenities.

"Bloomington is such a pet-friendly community that having a dog park is a natural fit for our Community Character," Kinzie said. "I look forward to working with the staff of the City's Gold-medal winning Parks and Recreation Department and the terrific staff of the Animal Shelter, plus local animal welfare advocates, Parks supporters and the public to develop a first-class, fun, safe and friendly dog park of which all of Bloomington will be proud."

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