

CONCERNS ABOUT ALLOWING DOGS WITHIN
SAWYER CREEK/RUSCH PARK

It should be apparent within the neighborhoods surrounding **Sawyer Creek/Rusch Park** that there is an issue regarding residents taking dogs to the park when there is a City ordinance that stipulates that dogs are not allowed on, or in any park properties.

The issue of dogs being brought to the **Sawyer Creek/Rusch Park** began when a park neighbor became concerned about dogs within the park and the safety of the family's child. There had been experiences where dogs came into the family's yard from the park. Also, when the family took the child into the park for a walk or play, there were physical issues with the dog(s). A call was made to the Parks Department with the knowledge that an ordinance existed about dogs not being allowed in parks and that it should be posted for **Sawyer Creek/Rusch Park** because of the safety issue.

Discussion about the dog issue was introduced at the May 11th Advisory Parks Board meeting. Discussion was held about whether consideration should be given regarding a change of the ordinance for the property in question. The ordinance could be changed where dogs could be allowed in the **Sawyer Creek/Rusch Park** – the language for the allowance might state that dogs would have to be under full control by each and every dog(s) owner and that said dog(s) owner would be required to clean up after their dog(s).

To help inform the Parks Board about what individuals think about dogs in **Sawyer Creek/Rusch Park**, there is a request for all neighbors & interested parties to fill in the simple survey below. **The request includes having the survey returned no later than 10:00 AM on Friday, June 5th, 2009.** A thankyou for your consideration in filling out the survey is extended, in advance.

- A. Do you have dog(s) as part of your family? Yes No
- B. Have you, or do you use **Sawyer Creek/Rusch Park** to walk or exercise your dog(s)? Yes No
- C. When your dog(s) are taken into the park:
- Are the dog(s) under control (6 foot leash); will sit/stay on command when other users are approaching, etc.?
- Are the dog(s) allowed to run free for exercise and/or play?
- D. Is there a practice that you or family members clean up after your dog(s) do their fecal duties in the park? Yes No
- E. Have you noticed and fecal matter lying along the trail or within the park that has not been cleaned up? Yes No

F. Do you understand and believe safety concerns of parents that want their children to experience the park property through play, walking, exploring, etc.?

Yes No

G. Is there a belief that both families (with children) and owner of dogs can co-exist when using the park? Yes No

H. What would you suggest that would allow both families (with children) and owners of dogs to co-exist within the park's boundaries?

I. Please submit additional comments about the issue noted above:
