



SEGER PARK DOG OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

WWW.SEGERDOGRUN.ORG

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1 FIXING PROBLEMS AT THE SEGER DOG PARK

Puddles and bare spots at the dog run are becoming more frequent as we reach the end of the life span of the first full installation of material from two years ago. We have replenished the wood chips twice, tried to sew the fabric liner, and raked chips back from the corners to the middle. However, we are at a point where we need to go beyond minor maintenance steps. Here is a summary of the issues, the part of the solution we know, and the part that the Seger Park Dog Owners Association (SPDOA) officers and board are assessing.

Puddles and Mud

Issue: The drainage system works by having a layer of gravel under the surface that allows water to flow to two perforated pipes that go under the edges of the walkway. The architect who designed the dog park has made two recent visits and does not think the pipes have become clogged. The original design called for the black cloth (which one often sees exposed) to go over the sandy dirt and **under** the gravel. Unfortunately, the contractors put it **on top** of the gravel and under the wood chips. This has allowed dirt to fill up the spaces in the gravel with the result that water does not drain the way it should.

Solution: Get rid of the current top layer of wood chips (as is supposed to happen after two years anyway), put down cloth on the (now) dirt and gravel base, then put about 2" more gravel on top, and a new surface such as wood chips.

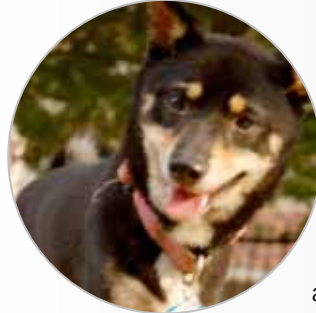
Bare Spots in the Surface

Issue: The wood chips scatter to the sides of the play area and they also decompose, with the result that the middle area becomes bare, hard, and dusty. A wood chip surface needs regular replenishment, tamping, and raking that we haven't done quite as regularly as needed. Also, with heavy dog traffic, the wood chips seem to be decomposing faster than expected. This may also have to do with different mixes and suppliers of chips. We plan to dispose of the entire current layer as part of the recommended maintenance after two years.

ARTICLE CONTINUED...

Options:

1. Replace with new wood chips or replace with another surface. Factors in the decision include initial cost, maintenance cost, level of effort to maintain, and how well the surface would serve our dogs.



2. The black fabric we're used to seeing exposed from lack of wood chips was never meant to see the light of day. There are other materials that are durable and may be worth considering. This layer would help keep the surface material, such as wood chips, from mixing with the drainage gravel. This layer could be something like astroturf, a woven material meant for hard use, or even some kind of chicken wire-like substance, which would provide protection against digging.

3. The surface does not need to be something loose; it just has to be comfortable for dogs. This could include some material developed for playgrounds such as rubber matting or artificial turf designed for heavy use.

“Bowl” in Middle of Park

Issue: There is a sunken area in the middle of the park. This may not be just an effect of heavy use; there is construction rubble under that is probably still settling.

Solution: While doing the big maintenance project, add extra gravel in that area before the new layer of cloth.

Next Steps

The officers and board hope to make a decision at the April 19th SPDOA meeting. Members and friends have been invited to participate in the planning process at the February and March meetings. Any additional input is requested as soon as possible although there will be a comment period at the upcoming meeting. Integral next steps include fundraising to pay for the improvement and figuring how to do a better job of maintenance.

2 PET FOOD RECALL

Many brands of pet food have been recalled by the government. The FDA is still trying to determine what is causing kidney failure in many pets who have consumed these various brands. For a complete list of the brands affected go to www.menufoods.com/recall or go to www.greaterphillytails.com

Only selected brands of canned wet food are affected. If you feed your dog or cat dry food you have no concern.

3 GET A DOG – LOSE WEIGHT



Walking is one of the best weight control activities we can do for our overall health and fitness. The recommended amount is at least 30 minutes a day or better yet 10,000 steps per day. It is estimated that in the first year of owning a dog you will lose 10 pounds and keep it off. Keeping you and your dog fit and healthy through walking is the magic formula.

4 NEW DOG PARK DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Morristown, N.J.

The Morris Area Responsible Dog Owners Group is sponsoring a conference on Saturday, April 28 at the Morris County Cultural Center to educate public officials and citizen groups of the effective way to establish dog parks. Many noted speakers, workshops, and tours of the Lewis Morris County Dog Park are planned. A fee of \$60.00 will be charged. For more information go to www.mardog.org or call 973-290-9338.



5 MONTHLY MEETING

The monthly meeting of the association will be held on Thursday, April 19th at 7:30. Please read "Fixing Problems at the Seger Dog Park" article on our ground cover and comment online so we can discuss all concerns. Only by voicing your opinion can we address all issues. For more information, please visit www.segerdogrun.org

Location: Seger Park Building / Lombard Street

GET INVOLVED -
BE PART OF THE SOLUTION NOT JUST A COMPLAINER

6 RECOGNITION DINNER

Long-time manager of Seger Park, John Stewart, will be honored as he retires with an event on Friday, April 20th. There will be a family-oriented gathering from 4-6 PM with snacks and an adult get together from 6:30 – 9 PM with a wine bar and Greek nibbles. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$1 for children, available at the Seger Rec Center or at the door.

