



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Wildwood's Bark Park Reopens**

Wildwood officials have reopened the dog park on Huey St. within Millennium Park, advising users that stinging insects and other wildlife may be present at any time.

City staff began receiving calls two weeks ago from citizens concerned about a sudden influx of bees at the park. In consultation with multiple experts, including several local beekeepers, staff investigated options for relocating the insects, including possible removal of trees in the park.

Weighing those options with input from the public, and recognizing swarming is common at this time of year, officials decided to allow the bees to disperse naturally rather than remove mature trees that provide shade, assist with water infiltration, and filter pollutants from the air and soil.

"We heard from dozens of dog owners wanting the park reopened as soon as possible," said Interim Parks and Recreation Director Jason Wheeler. "We have posted signage advising of insects and wildlife and have fenced off the area of greatest bee activity."

The bark park is open from dawn to dusk daily, with the exception of Mondays and Fridays from 9 to 11 a.m., when crews perform any needed maintenance.

Two fenced-in, off-leash areas are available for well-behaved, fully vaccinated dogs under their owners' supervision, and water is available on the property. Dog owners and the general public are responsible for using the park at their own risk.

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