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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Invercargill's first dog park to be officially opened on Sunday

"The opening of Invercargill's first ever dog park on Sunday is a successful community driven project to improve the city's urban rejuvenation," Invercargill City Councillor Neil Boniface said today.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the Elles Road Dog Park on Sunday, November 24 at 1.30pm to officially open the community facility.

"We're inviting all dog lovers to bring your pet dogs and enjoy a free barbecue and giveaways thanks to local vets and pet shops, to mark this important event for the South Invercargill community," Cr Boniface said.

The need for a dog park was raised 18 months ago when the South Alive group held public meetings with its community to find out what they wanted to see improved about where they lived.

The South Alive Urban Rejuvenation portfolio was created and local man Colin Anderson was tasked with chairing this portfolio.

Mr Anderson said the need for a dog park in South Invercargill was one of the first initiatives that his group got started on.

"We looked at various places where the park could be situated and it was decided to situate it on Elles Road at the reserve.

"We have worked with the Council to have the reserve use formally changed in the Parks Management Plan so a dog park could be developed there," Mr Anderson said.

The Invercargill City Council provided $60,000 towards the project from its Urban Rejuvenation fund, Cr Boniface said.

"This is a fantastic use for the funds and it's great to see a facility like this come to fruition.

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“It’s been a successful collaboration between the South Invercargill community and Council,” Cr Boniface said.

Mr Anderson said the dog park features plantings, a high fence for safety precautions, a doggy doo depot and bags so people can clean up after their pets and facilities so people can water their dogs.

“It’s a place where people can take their dogs, let them off the lead and socialise with other dogs in a safe and enjoyable environment.

“The feedback from the South Invercargill community has been really positive and there is no reason why there couldn’t be other dog parks in Invercargill,” Mr Anderson said.

Cr Boniface said it was hoped to add agility equipment to enhance the dog park in time.

ENDS.

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