

1 **DRAFT**
2 **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/**
3 **FINDING OF NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE**

4 **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**
5 **DOG PARK CONSTRUCTION**

6 **TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, OKLAHOMA**

7 **AGENCY:** 72nd Air Base Wing, Tinker Air Force Base (AFB), Oklahoma (OK)

8 **BACKGROUND:** Tinker AFB proposes to construct and operate a dog park to support a
9 quality of life concern for on-base residents. Presently, the closest dog parks to Tinker AFB
10 are located three miles and eight miles away in Del City and Midwest City, respectively.

11 Pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989,
12 *Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process*, and other applicable regulations, Tinker
13 AFB completed an environmental assessment of the potential environmental consequences of
14 constructing and operating a dog park. The attached Environmental Assessment (EA)
15 evaluated the effects of the Proposed Action and the No-action Alternative, and supports this
16 Finding of No Significant Impact/Finding of No Practicable Alternative.

17 **PROPOSED ACTION:** Under the Proposed Action the base would contract construction of
18 an approximate 1.9-acre dog park to include two contiguous areas surrounded by fencing to
19 separate small and large breed dogs. The dog park would be sited directly east of the Base's
20 Twining neighborhood and north of the youth center (Building 5520). This would centrally
21 locate the park near 470 residences, representing 71 percent of the on-base residents. Parking
22 would be available in the existing youth center parking lot and along the paved streets.
23 Parking options would be expanded once a new, planned parking lot is constructed.
24 Construction of this parking lot is not included as a component of the Proposed Action
25 described in this EA.

26 Some utilities would be constructed at the dog park to provide lighting and water fountains to
27 the area. Trash cans would be installed on the site and trees may be planted on the site to
28 provide shade. Approximately 1,018 linear feet of chain link type fencing would be
29 constructed within the 100- and 500-year floodplains, but would run parallel to flood flows
30 where it encroaches on the floodplain. The entire proposed dog park lies within a planned KC-
31 46A green infrastructure mitigation area.

32 **NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** Under the No-action Alternative the dog park would not be
33 constructed at Tinker AFB. Tinker AFB on-base residents would lack a convenient location
34 to exercise and socialize their dogs. Therefore, residents would continue to use the nearest dog
35 parks available in Del City and Midwest City, use their backyards, or walk along the trails and
36 streets at Tinker AFB. Benefits from the No-action Alternative would be that there would be
37 no impact to the KC- 46A mitigation area or to the floodplains.

38 **SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION:**

39 **Noise** - Park construction would result in short-term, minor increases in construction noise;
40 however, noise levels at the closest noise sensitive receptors would not increase substantially

1 due to the logarithmic nature of noise. During park use there is also a potential for temporary
2 increases in noise the immediate vicinity of the park from barking dogs.

3 **Geology and Soils** – There would be no impacts to geology, topography of the site, soil unit
4 composition, or farmlands. Minor, short-term increases in fugitive dust are expected during
5 excavation activities. There is a potential for minor erosion with the closest receiving water
6 (West Crutcho Creek) located immediately adjacent to the proposed dog park. Sedimentation
7 of the Creek would be limited due to the barrier provided by on-site grasses and creek bank
8 vegetation. Implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and its associated best
9 management practices (BMPs) would also reduce sedimentation impacts.

10 **Water Resources** – Shallow groundwater may be encountered during soil excavation. If
11 groundwater were encountered, all excavation activities would cease and the engineering
12 design of the fencing would be re-examined to determine if a new design is necessary. There
13 would be no impacts to site topography, impervious surfaces, water flow, 100- or 500-year
14 flood elevations, floodway elevations or widths, flood levels, runoff quantity or velocity, or the
15 drinking water production zone utilized by Tinker AFB. Installed fencing could be damaged
16 during flood events; however, no long-term effects would result, as fencing would be repaired
17 following damage. There would be negligible to minor impacts to West Crutcho Creek related
18 to erosion and sedimentation. An increased potential for soil erosion immediately following
19 construction activities may be realized; however, any impact would be temporary and would
20 be eliminated once vegetation was re-established.

21 **Biological Resources** – Negligible to minor, long-term impacts to aquatic habitat would be
22 realized in Crutcho Creek due to a potential increase in dog waste reaching the creek. Dog
23 Park use would result in minor, long-term impacts to vegetation at the site. Additionally, the
24 presence of humans and dogs at the park may reduce the desirability of bird, mammalian,
25 reptile, and amphibian habitat to some species, resulting in minor, long-term impacts. Minor,
26 long-term fragmentation of 0.5 acres of mammalian, reptile, and amphibian habitat as well a
27 long-term reduction in habitat quality due to presence of humans and dogs may be
28 experienced. Invertebrate species may realize minor, long-term impacts to due to soil
29 compaction and presence of dogs. No impacts to protected species or state species of special
30 concern are expected. One and a half acres of green infrastructure included as part of a
31 mitigation plan for the KC-46A Depot Maintenance Activation project would be established in
32 a different area to modify the mitigation plan.

33 **Safety and Occupational Health** – No impact to Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH)
34 program or incidents would be expected. There would be a short-term increase in potential for
35 safety incidents during construction activities. A long-term increase in potential mishaps such
36 as slips, trips, and falls; insect bites/stings, snake bites, climatic incidents, and dog bites could
37 occur from use of the park.

38 **Utilities and Infrastructure** – There would be a long-term, negligible to minor increase in
39 annual electrical consumption by approximately one percent. No adverse impacts to potable
40 water consumption or the existing electrical distribution system or supply are expected. There
41 would be a negligible increase in potable water consumption for the base resulting from water
42 fountain installation at the park. Long-term, minor increases in municipal solid waste
43 generated at Tinker AFB would result from municipal and dog waste. The increase would be
44 so limited that it would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to the municipal solid

1 waste collection and disposal system at Tinker AFB. Construction activities would result in
2 negligible to minor short-term increases in construction and demolition waste. Adverse
3 impacts to capacity of nearby landfills are not expected.

4 **SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND BEST MANAGEMENT**
5 **PRACTICES:** Unless otherwise stated below, mitigation and Best Management Practices
6 (BMPs) are not recommended.

7 **Noise** - All construction activities would occur during daytime hours (0700 – 1900 hours).
8 BMPs would include equipping noise-generating heavy equipment at the project site with the
9 manufacturer’s standard noise control devices (i.e., mufflers, baffling, and/or engine
10 enclosures). All equipment should be properly maintained to ensure that no additional noise
11 from worn or improperly maintained equipment parts is generated. Construction activities
12 would be conducted according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration
13 regulations 29 CFR 1910.95 and 29 CFR 1926.52. Occupational exposure to the noise from
14 heavy equipment could be reduced by requiring workers to wear appropriate hearing
15 protection. Hearing protective devices such as ear plugs or ear muffs should be worn at all
16 locations where workers may be exposed to high noise levels.

17 **Geology and Soils** – BMPs would include spraying water over soil during construction
18 activities to reduce fugitive dust. Erosion control measures, such as silt fences or other
19 barricades may be necessary to prevent soil runoff and would be included as BMPs within the
20 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

21 **Water Resources** – BMPs would include erosion control measures such as silt fences or other
22 barricades established within the SWPPP. Additionally, erosion immediately following
23 conclusion of construction activities could be minimized by planting vegetative cover or
24 installing inert material such that soils are stabilized at the end of construction activities.

25 **Biological Resources** - Erosion control measures such as installation of silt fences or other
26 barricades would be established as BMPs in the SWPPP and implemented during construction.
27 Educational signage would be posted on effects of dog waste in aquatic systems as well as
28 signs requiring dog park users to clean up their dog’s waste. The Dog Park would also include
29 a dispenser for dog waste bags and a receptacle for the placement of used bags.

30 **Safety and Occupational Health** – BMPs for construction activities include posting signs in
31 potentially dangerous work areas and communication with base residents and employees well
32 in advance of construction commencement to help minimize hazards for pedestrians during the
33 construction time period. Use of signage and personal protective equipment such as hard hats,
34 steel toed boots, hearing protection, work gloves, reflective vests, safety harnesses, signaling
35 flags at the construction site would protect workers and bystanders from sharp and/or heavy
36 tools, construction materials, loose construction debris, large and noisy moving equipment, as
37 well as biological hazards. BMPs for park safety include posting signs at the dog park
38 entrance which identify the park rules (including vaccination requirements). Additionally,
39 park users would be responsible for determining climatic conditions prior to use of the park
40 and dressing to fit the weather conditions. All park users should make use of the water
41 fountain on site to stay hydrated.

1 **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** Under the No-action
2 Alternative, there would be no adverse impacts to any resource areas and no change from
3 baseline conditions. However, the potential for safety incidents (specifically insect bites/stings
4 and snake bites) at the site would be higher than for Proposed Action due to limited pest
5 control services scheduled for areas classified as open space, such as the project site. The No-
6 action Alternative would result in beneficial impacts to green infrastructure, as the KC-46A
7 Depot Maintenance Activation project mitigation area would remain intact, instead of
8 segregated as it would be under the Proposed Action.

9 **SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS:** The cumulative impact of implementing these
10 actions along with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects at and around
11 Tinker AFB were assessed in the attached EA and no significant cumulative impacts were
12 identified.

13 **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION:** This
14 will be inserted after the 30-day public comment period closes.

15 **FINDING OF NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE:**

16 Under the Proposed Action, approximately 1.3 acres of 100-year floodplains and 0.04 acres of
17 500-year floodplains are located within the construction area. Impacts to the floodplain are not
18 anticipated for this project, as no topography changes are anticipated, fence posts would not
19 substantially impede water flow, and chain-link type fencing would be installed parallel to
20 flood flows.

21 Prior to commencement of construction activities, coordination with the City of Oklahoma
22 City Floodplain Administrator must occur. An application for a Floodplain Activity Permit
23 must be submitted to the City of Oklahoma City Floodplain Administrator in accordance with
24 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Code of Ordinances, Chapter 16 – Drainage and Flood Control.

25 Pursuant to Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, and considering all supporting information, I
26 find there is no practicable alternative to constructing the dog park at a site which will impact
27 floodplains, as described in the attached EA. This finding fulfills both the requirements of the
28 referenced Executive Orders and the EIAP regulation, 32 CFR § 989.14 for a Finding of No
29 Practicable Alternative.

30 **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:**

31 Based upon my review of the attached EA, I conclude that the Alternatives will not have a
32 significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impact upon the environment. Accordingly, the
33 requirements of the NEPA, regulations promulgated by the President’s Council on
34 Environmental Quality, and 32 CFR Part 989 are fulfilled and an Environmental Impact
35 Statement is not required at this time.

36 _____
37 STEPHANIE P. WILSON, Colonel, USAF Date
38 Commander, 72 ABW