

Plainville Dog Park

Proposal and Information



History / Background

- In 2000 the Plainville Town Council developed and adapted a Master Plan for the Parks and Recreation Department to include a Dog Park.
- In February 2016 the Park and Recreation Board appointed 8 residents to the Dog Park Committee.
- This committee was asked to come up with a proposal for a Dog Park in Plainville.

What is a Dog Park?

- A Dog Park is typically a public park that is fenced in and dogs can play together and run around without leashes. It allows dogs to socialize with other dogs in a safe place.

Benefits of a Dog Park



- According to sources there are over 2,000 Dog Parks in the United States. The American Kennel Club sites that cities are becoming more and more populated and leash laws are becoming more restrictive. A Dog Park allows owners to spend time with their dogs in a safe place.
- Dog Parks are normally managed by park users and in conjunction with Town or City officials. More than just a “room to roam” the creation of a dog park allows dogs to socialize safely.
- Dog parks are a great place for owners to meet other people with common interest.

More Community Benefits

- Dog Parks allow dogs to run around safely without endangering themselves (for example, by running into the street and oncoming vehicles)
- The National Parks and Recreation Department reports that designating an area for dogs to socialize and play has decreased the number of complaints to Town and City officials across the US, easing the burden of enforcement on Animal Control Officers.
- Dog Parks prevent off leash animals from infringing on the rights of other community members and park users such as joggers, small children and those that are fearful of dogs.
- Residents that use the Dog Park are self-policing as to maintain the environment (picking up waste, monitoring their dogs behavior etc.)
- Well exercised dogs are better neighbors who are less likely to create a nuisance, bark excessively and destroy property. The dog presence in the park has been reported to deter crime.
- Another reason for a Dog Park is to accommodate senior citizens and the disabled, who cannot always walk their dog on a leash.



Dog Park Mission

- To create a fenced in, off leash Dog Park where well behaved dogs, under the supervision of their owners can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering people and other property.

Dog Park Interest



- Over 300 Plainville Residents recently signed a petition supporting a Dog Park to be developed at Norton Place Extension.

Dog Park Responsibilities

- The responsibilities of the Dog Park should be outlined in a *Memo of Understanding* between the Town Agencies and the Dog Park Committee. This should include the chain of command , reporting relationships and duties and responsibilities.

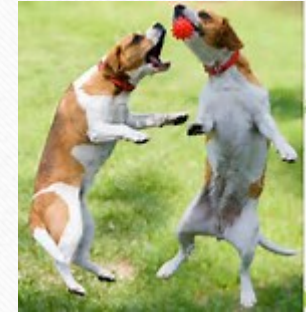
Town Responsibility

- The Town responsibility will be part of the **Memo of Understanding** to include:
 - Grass cutting, tree trimming
 - Order supplies for the park including waste bags, mulch etc.
 - Schedule dumpster and port a potty cleaning
 - Other maintenance as required

Town Liability

- The Town liability will be determined by the Town Council, Town Attorney and Insurance Underwriters.
- Local cities and towns in Connecticut that have Dog Parks, maintain that the *Dog Owners are responsible* for their dog and are held strictly liable for any damages caused by their dog, irrespective of whether the owner was negligent in controlling their dog.

Dog Park Sites



- This committee was tasked with evaluating 6 possible, Town owned sites
 - 1. Norton Park – Brown Picnic Area
 - 2. Norton Park – across from the Municipal Garage
 - 3. Robert Street Ext.
 - 4. Norton Place Ext.
 - 5. Paderewski Park
 - 6. Diamond Ave



Dog Park Site Selection

- After identifying and discussing the pros and cons of each site with Town Officials and Town Residents, our recommendation is to create a Dog Park at the end of the cul-de-sac at Norton Place extension.
- Advantages of Norton Place Ext:
 - Site is owned by the Town of Plainville
 - Minimal development costs
 - Sufficient parking in cul-de-sac
 - Remote from traffic and distractions
 - Water availability
 - Optimal use of Flood Plain Area

Development Plan

- Our desire to create approximately a one acre off leash park where well behaved dogs can exercise and romp in an enclosed, safe, clean and monitored area.
- The Dog Park will be double gated with two sections, one for larger dogs and the other for smaller or timid dogs. The Dog Park would be constructed in phases with amenities added as monies from fundraising become available.
- The initial phase of the construction would include fencing, gating, rule board, information signage, drinking water access and handicapped accessibility.
- In addition, we will buffer the north side of the Dog Park to protect the privacy and property of neighbors to mitigate any noise from the park.
- In subsequent phases, we could add park benches, plantings, a perimeter walk area and possibly a dog wash.
- Annual Cost to be determined.



Dog Park Funding

- Funding will be done through several methods:
 - 1. Donations
 - 2. Fundraising
 - 3. Direct Solicitations of local businesses
 - 4. Grant requests

Dog Park Rules



- *The Town of Plainville is not responsible and shall have no liability for the acts or omissions of individuals or their animals that utilize the Dog Park. **Owners** are responsible for any injury or damage caused by your dog.*
- Dogs must wear a valid rabies tag. All dogs must be up to date on all immunizations. Owners will be fined for non-compliance.
- Children under the age of 12 are not allowed inside the fenced area for health and safety reasons.
- Your dog must be within view and under voice control at all times.
- You must clean up after your Dog! All waste will be placed in the proper receptacles.
- Immediately fill in any holes your dog creates.
- Aggressive Dogs are not allowed in the park. Female Dogs (in heat) sick or injured dogs, dogs less than 6 months old should not be brought into the park.



Dog Park Rules Continued

- Dog owners must carry a leash at all times. Leash your dog when entering and exiting the park and immediately upon signs of aggression or bad conduct of your dog.
- No smoking
- No Food including dog treats
- Alcohol is not permitted
- No spiked, pronged, choke or training collars are allowed
- All visitors must act responsibly and respectfully to other visitors
- Bicycles and skateboards are not permitted
- Park Hours Dawn to Dusk

Noise and Dog Parks



- Noise studies at other Dog Parks demonstrate the noise level to be minimal. Observations noted that most often dogs do not bark while at play. They are too busy playing. Dogs that barked did so for short periods of time.
- Interestingly, the studies show that the loudest barking was from dogs in confined yards, neighboring the Dog Parks.



Information

- Plainville has approximately 2,000 registered dogs. Our population is approximately 18,000 people; that is one dog for every 9 residents.
- It is estimated that 78 million dogs are owned in the United States. Approximately 44% of all households in the US have a dog.
- It is also estimated that there are 38 million families in the US with children and 43 million with dogs.
- Property values near Dog Parks increase, sometimes significantly according to Worthington Dog Park.com (W.O.O.F) The more parks a city has the higher the property values tend to be.
- Dog Parks have become a sought after amenity among people relocating to a community.
- Dog Parks often assist with reducing crime. This week Gahanna Deputy Police Chief stated “Since the Dog Park was opened, we have seen a significant drop in calls for suspicious persons or activities in the park.”

Plainville Dog Park Estimated Cost

• 1070 Feet of 5 ft. Fencing	\$12,840.00
• (2) 10 Foot Gates	\$800.00
• 3 Pedestrian Gates	\$600.00
• 2 Water Fountains	\$5,000.00
• 4 Park Benches	\$2500.00
• Park Rules Sign	\$300.00
• 2 mites boxes, plus mites	<u>\$300.00</u>
	<u>\$22,340.00 Total</u>

- Poop bags, trash cans, pavement for entrance, Handicap access, gazebo, site preparation, Picnic tables and annual maintenance to be determined.

Thank You

- Thank you for listening to our presentation. We appreciate your support for the Plainville Dog Park.

