

Mineola Civic Center Dog Park
Parks & Open Spaces Advisory Board
September 17, 2019

What is a Dog Park?

Dog parks are an up and coming necessity for growing communities. A dog park is a public park, typically fenced, where people and their dogs can play together. This offers dogs off-leash play areas where their owners can enjoy park-like setting and the chance to socialize with other canines and their owners.

How Will This Benefit the Community?

Dog Parks provide a safe space for pets and people, especially at mulit-use grounds facility. Having a dog park can eliminate issues such as loose animals, maintenance having to clean up feces, and much more. This can also serve as an additional amenity for the RV Park and its users. With potential help from APET in Mineola, having events like pet adoptions and supplies donations can assist with positive PR and advertising.

How Much is This Going to Cost?

With obvious equipment needs such as fencing and gates, other amenities can be added to the dog park to make it more enjoyable as well as appealing. This is a rough estimate and unexhaustive list of equipment.

Item	Quantity	Cost Per Unit	Total
Chain Link Fence	approx. 450 feet	\$15/ft	6,750.00
Signage and Rules	1	\$211	\$211
Trash cans and baggies	2	\$299	598
Bench	2	\$505	1010
Shade Structure	1	\$1,866.00	1866
compliant Water fountain	1	\$3,484.60	3484.6
Donation Box			
Obstacles:			
parkwarehouse.com			
Amenities Kit	Intermediate Agility Course Kit	Novice Agility Course Kit	
Welcome and Rules Sign	Hill	Table	
Bench	Tube	Pole	
Metal Trash Can	Hoops	Tube	
Pet Waste Station	Stand	Hoop	
Leash Post	Pole	\$3,216.00	
	Steps		
\$2,481.00	\$6,548.00		

Where is the Funding Coming From?

This dog park would come at no cost to the civic center in the initial construction. Once completed, the civic center would be responsible for maintenance. The city's plan for funding would be mostly from sponsorships and fundraising, as well as potentially partnering with APET. I plan to reach out to local organizations and private companies to support in fundraising.

What Would the Maintenance Plan be?

Being a public park, we can only assume that maintenance would be needed. After the fence would be built, no equipment would need maintenance anytime soon. The biggest concerns that we may see are lawn care as well as sanitation. With foot traffic and dogs going #1, grass would not be growing as fast, but will still need to be cut at a slower rate. We would be sure to spread obstacles and other equipment to leave ample room for lawn mowers, weed eaters, etc. For sanitation, here is a study from the Stanton Foundation and what their research has found:

Sanitation

This is the third most highly profiled concern of community officials and park managers. However, our study found no significant correlation between fecal counts and success. The absence of a correlation may indicate a rather low occurrence of residual fecal droppings in parks. The median was 1 fecal dropping per 100 square meters (120 square yards). Clearly almost all users of dog parks are conscientious about picking up after their dogs. We did find a correlation between the number of signs reminding users to pick up after their dogs and a lower fecal count. The posting of signs highlighting the rule of picking up feces appeared to be more important than the number of refuse cans available – as long as the cans were accessible and not overflowing. To help assure compliance with community expectations of a clean park, we suggest the following:

1. Plan and budget for an appropriate maintenance and cleaning schedule, done by the municipality or organization managing the dog park.
2. Place signs stating the rules at the entrance(s) to the park, as well as within the park, profiling the rule that owners must pick up the feces of their dogs. Be sure that the signs are well maintained.
3. Provide adequate disposable bags, or other means of removing feces, and refuse cans for feces cleanup.
4. Suggest that an active dog park club help monitor the sanitation of the park.

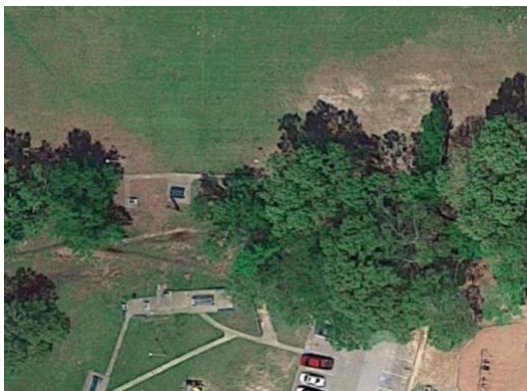
What Would it Look Like?

Here is a sample layout of what the park can look like. According to AKC, a healthy space for a dog park is about 1,000 square feet. This needs to include a double gate entrance for security purposes, as well as two separate sections for small dogs and large dogs. Waste receptacles and water fountains will also be needed.



Where is it going to be Located?

The best location would be across the bridge in the empty lot. Being as close as we can to the trees would be beneficial for shading. Because of the location and need for a water fountain, a water line will be needed across from the creek according to Nancy.



What Rules Would be Posted?

Below is a draft of the rules that will be posted on site:

Dog Park Rules and Regulations

- No food is allowed - for humans or dogs.
- Any person under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Owners are responsible for removal and disposal of feces of their dog.
- Petting another person's dog is prohibited without the owner's permission.
- Persons running, shouting, or chasing dogs is prohibited.
- Dogs in heat are not permitted.
- No puppies under the age of four months are permitted.
- Any dog exhibiting aggressive behavior must be removed immediately.
- Choke, prong, pinch and spike collars are prohibited and must be removed before entering.
- Dogs shall be under voice control of their owner at all times.
- Owners must stay within the dog park and within view of their dogs at all times.
- Owners must have a visible leash available at all times.
- Dogs must remain on leash while entering and exiting.
- Dogs must wear a tag evidencing current rabies vaccination.
- Dogs are the only animals allowed or permitted.
- All rules governing Mineola Public Parks and Open Spaces are applicable.

I appreciate your time looking over this information. If you have any more questions or would like to talk, feel free to reach out to me at mwhite@mineola.com.

Mallori White

City of Mineola Intern

Updates:

- I. 9/9/2019: Meeting with Nancy at Civic Center to propose the idea.
- II. 9/11/2019: Civic Center Board met and discussed proposal for the Dog Park.
 - a. Board of Directors agreed to plan and voted to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the City to have a Dog Park.
- III. 9/17/2019: Parks and Open Space Advisory Board Meeting to inform them of the project.
- IV. 9/23/2019: Will present project to City Council.