

PROPOSAL

Jan 2014



PARKS COMMITTEE: MARSHALL DOG PARK

Marshall Off-Leash Dog Exercise Area Proposal

Marshall's Need for An Off-Leash Dog Park

In Marshall there are 409 licensed dogs, and likely hundreds of unlicensed dogs. In the United States, dogs are the most popular type of pet—40.6 million households own a dog.

Dog parks (also known as off-leash dog exercise areas) are extremely popular throughout Dane County. In fact, the most widely used Dane County Park is an off-leash dog exercise park in Verona. These parks are used daily by owners and their dogs even on the worst winter day.

There is no place in Marshall to legally allow a dog off-leash. Dog owners are faced with either an approximate 18 mile round trip visit to the closest park or allow their dogs to run free

in areas where they are doing so illegally.

Dogs need exercise and socialization. Communities with off-leash dog exercise areas offer the potential for better-behaved dogs and better dog owners. And with the popularity of such parks county-wide there is no reason to believe Marshall won't reap similar benefits. Compliance with licensing and rabies (as well as other) vaccinations will increase. An off-leash dog exercise area is a community builder resulting in social interactions not only between dogs but also dog owners. Controlling where dogs run free make environmental management of the area possible; and also makes keeping dogs out of envi-

ronmentally-sensitive areas much easier.



An off-leash dog exercise area increases compliance with licensing and vaccinations.

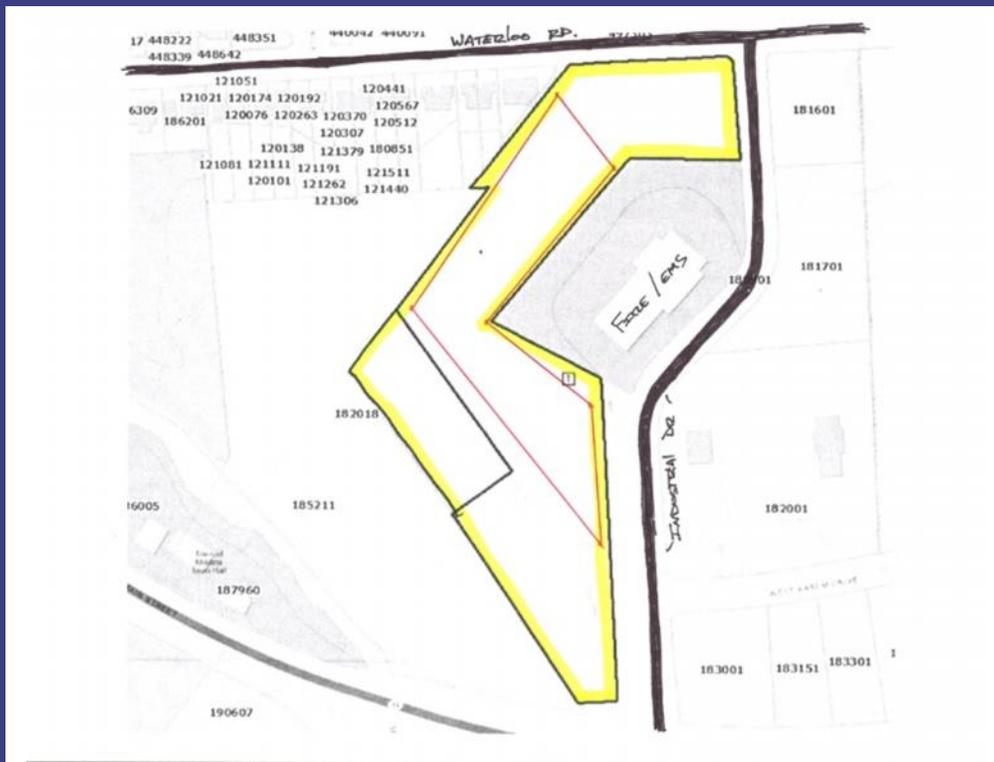
“Communities with off-leash dog exercise areas offer the potential for better-behaved dogs and better owners.”

Questions or comments??

Email recdirector@marhsall-wi.com or call 608-655-4017 x216

Did you know . . . ?

- Exercised dogs make better next-door neighbors than under exercised dogs.
- Dog parks bring people together and create a greater sense of community.
- Dog parks are the most widely used parks in Dane County.
- Unlike other community parks, dog parks are used Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.



** Not to scale, intended only as approximate location of dog park.**
Property line is in yellow, Dog Park area is in Red

Where & Why

The Parks Committee has been investigating the need and possibility of a Dog Park for the past 3 years. Interested citizens were invited to attend meetings. We have toured Jefferson County Dog Park, Waunakee and Sun Prairie Dog Parks to obtain information about the development and maintenance of an off-leash dog exercise area.

We evaluated several Village-owned sites. We also researched the possibility of being part of the Dane County Dog Park System, since we do not meet the requirement of being at least 20 acres in size this is not an option.

Positives of this site

- Space is “undesirable” for other uses
- Adjacent to walking trails and parks
- Respectable in size
- Already Village owned
- Minimal residence in close proximity



Dog parks are family friendly

At this time the only available area for a dog park is a nearly 10 acre site. This area is within the FEMA floodplain. Thus, there are substantial challenges to industrial development for this site. Our most recent Outdoor Recreation Plan sites that a proposed use for a portion of this area is a dog park. The Village of Marshalls floodplain ordinance lists “parks” among the permitted uses for floodplain areas.

Expected Costs & Next Steps

The estimated cost of fencing and gates is \$26,400. There are also additional amenities of \$11,545.00. For a total projected cost of \$37,945.00

The current funding proposal of this Dog Park results in a three headed plan. First, if \$5 was added to each Dog license \$2,045.00 would be generated each year. Second, a use permit for non-residents would be implemented. Lastly, a donation box similar to those used at Langer Park would be put on site. With the \$5 increase alone at current licensing levels the park

We request the support of Village Board to continue with the project!



Unlike many parks, dog parks are used almost every day, even in the winter!

would be paid for in a little over 18 years. If funded as described two facts hold true. First, the life expectancy of the fence is significantly greater than the 18 years it will take to pay everything off. Secondly, the cost to build this amenity will be funded through fees, donations and use permits. Not the general tax levy.

Proposed Time Table

FEB	Village Board Approval
APR	Fencing RFP goes out
MAY	Board selects fencing Co
JULY	Fencing Installed
AUG	Community Work Day
SEPT	“Soft Opening”
OCT	Grand Opening

Benefits of Off-Leash Dog Exercise Parks: More Than Just Room to Roam

Allows dogs to exercise and socialize safely. Puppies and adult dogs need room to run, and enclosed play areas permit them to do so while preventing them from endangering themselves (such as by running into the path of an oncoming vehicle). In addition, dogs who are accustomed to playing with animals and people other than their owners are more likely to be well-socialized and react well toward strangers.

Promotes responsible dog ownership. Dog parks prevent off-leash animals from infringing on the rights of other community residents and park users such as joggers, small children, and those who may be fearful of dogs. Parks also make it easier for a village to enforce its leash laws, as resident dog owners

with park access have no reason to allow their canine companions off-leash when outside of the park.

Provides an outlet for dog owners to socialize. Dog parks are a great place for owners to meet other people with common interests. The love people share for their dogs reaches beyond economic and social barriers and helps foster a sense of community. Park users also benefit from the opportunity to ask questions of other owners and find solutions to problems they might be having with their pet.

Makes for a better community by promoting public health and safety. Well-exercised dogs

This is not a DOG issue; it is a PEOPLE issue.

are better neighbors who are less likely to create a nuisance, bark excessively and destroy property.

Their presence in the park, along with their owners, also helps to deter crime.

Provides physical and mental health benefits to owners. The emotional, health and social benefits of dog-owning are well-documented. In particular, dog parks allow elderly or disabled people to exercise their dogs in an accessible location.



Meet & Greet at John Nolen Dog Park

Marshalls Dog Park

What are your thoughts & ideas??? Write them down and turn them in!

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In Person: 130 S Pardee St

Email: Recdirector@marshall-wi.com