

**Colchester Parks and Recreation
and Community Residents
invite you to get involved!**



**The Colchester Dog Park
site and proposed plan have
been approved by the town!**



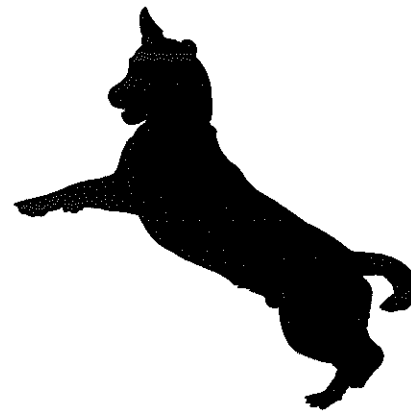
<http://www.colchesterct.gov/dogpark>

Who we Are:

We are a volunteer group of Colchester dog owners and dog lovers of all ages, talents, abilities and all walks of life who have gathered to bring a dog park to the town of Colchester. Through a partnership with the town's parks and recreation department, a detailed proposal was created outlining the fundamentals of the park. The proposal has been approved by the town, and we are currently involved in our fundraising efforts.

Our mission:

To establish, support and assist in the ongoing maintenance of a fenced-in off leash dog park where well behaved canine citizens can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering property, wildlife, or fellow citizens, and dog lovers can socialize with other dog lovers.



What is a dog Park?

A dog park, or off-leash exercise area, is a fenced piece of land designated for the use of residents who wish to exercise their dogs safely and allow them to socialize with other dogs. It offers disposal facilities for dog waste, and may provide amenities such as benches and shade and have a double-gated entry and exit point called a "bull pen" for safe entry and exit of owners and dogs.



Won't dogs fight if they run free together?

Since dogs are pack animals, they usually get along well together on neutral territory. Occasionally a dog shows aggressive behavior, but park rules prohibit aggressive dogs and such a dog must be removed immediately. Liability of damage caused by a dog rests with the owner, whether on a street, in a home, or on municipal property. Very few problems have been noted in established parks.



Benefits of the dog park for the dogs:

- Provides a safe and controlled environment for the dogs to exercise
- A well-exercised dog is a happier and healthier dog. An exercised dog makes a better next-door neighbor than an under-exercised dog. Puppies and dogs which get enough exercise are less likely to create a nuisance, bark excessively, destroy property, jump on passers-by, etc.
- Allows for the socialization of dogs. Socialization helps build your dog's temperament, and an even-tempered dog is less likely to be aggressive or fearful and will have fewer behavioral problems as well as be less aggressive.

Benefits of a dog park for the owners:

- The provision of a vital public space allowing people to meet and form the bonds of a community
- Allows people to have the pleasure of watching their dogs at play
- Contributes to the overall physical fitness of people by encouraging them to play with their dogs
- Provides dog owners the opportunity to enjoy the outside

Benefits of the dog park to the community:

Enclosed play areas prevent off-leash dogs 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. A dog park helps build community and lasting friendships between dogs and their owners. Dogs help to bring people together and break down many social and economic barriers.



Frequently Asked Questions

Where will the park be located?

The park will be located off of Route 85, near Colchester's transfer station. The approved location is a capped landfill free of hazardous waste and located in a wooded area. The fenced-in area (approximately 2 acres) is secluded from commercial and residential zones, but will be easily accessible to its users. For more information on the park's proposed layout and location, visit the dog park website.

How will the dog park be paid for?

The Dog Park Committee has begun organizing fundraising events to raise ALL funds necessary so that it does not cost taxpayers anything. To bring this beneficial park to the town, the committee is counting on the community to support the effort by making donations and participating in fundraising events.

How will the parks be maintained?

The majority of maintenance of a dog park is done by those that visit the dog park. Doggy waste bag dispensers and shovels are often provided, rules are posted, and dog owners are expected to clean up after their pets. Also, by maintaining an active dog park committee, the members and users can help keep it clean and tidy, and report any problems.

What are the rules of a dog park?

All dog parks have a set of rules that are vital to the success of the dog park. Our committee has developed rules for the park; these rules are contained in our proposal but are subject to change as the park is established. Owners are expected to abide by the rules posted.

Is there an admission fee?

No, the dog park would be free to everyone. That includes people from surrounding towns!

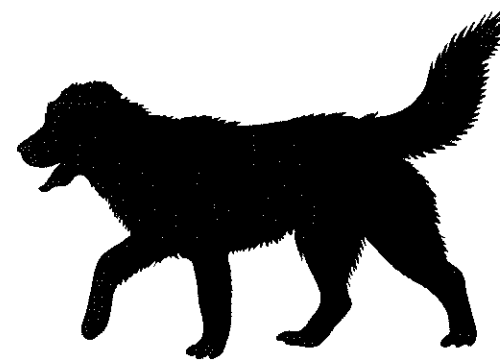
Do other communities have dog parks?

Currently in Connecticut, the towns of Hamden, Norwich, South Windsor, and Wethersfield have established dog parks. Many towns are in the process of developing a dog park, including Enfield, Glastonbury, and Rocky Hill.



We're looking for your help!

The success of dog parks in other towns has been directly influenced by the supportive communities they are located in. The building of a dog park in town is a labor of love by those involved; many hurdles that stop other developers in other towns from achieving their goals were overcome by the dog park committee of Colchester. Now we're in our fundraising stage, and we're counting on the support of Colchester's residents to make the park a reality.



For more info, including proposed layouts, fundraising status, and to make a tax-deductible donation, visit our website at:

<http://www.colchesterct.gov/dogpark>

You can also visit the parks and recreation department in the town hall for more info.



<http://www.colchesterct.gov/dogpark>

Sponsor the park!

Complete this form and send it along with a check, payable to the Town of Colchester.

First Name	Last Name
Address	
City, State, Zip	Phone
Organization (if applicable)	
E-mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Please notify me of future fundraising efforts

- _____ \$25 Donation
- _____ \$50 Donation
- _____ \$100 Donation
- _____ \$300 Donation
- _____ \$500 Donation
- _____ Other Amt.
- _____ Total



Please send to:

Colchester Parks and Rec.
Committee
C/O Town Hall
127 Norwich Ave.
Colchester, CT 06415
ATTN: Dog Park Committee

You can also deliver your donation in person at the above address.

Remember, many employers will match donations!

