



Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

Mukwonago Park Dog Exercise Area Project - Frequently Asked Questions

Fast Facts About the Project:

Waukesha County plans to create a dog exercise area at Mukwonago Park, located at County Hwy LO in Mukwonago. This will be the third off-leash Dog Exercise Area within the Park System.

Why is the County creating a Dog Exercise Area in Mukwonago Park?

With growing support for a Dog Exercise Area in the Mukwonago area, the park seems best suited for this development. With the other two dog exercise areas in opposite sides of the county, this location will provide a dog exercise facility for residents in the Southwestern section of Waukesha County.

In addition, the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use is updating the Master Plan for Mukwonago Park, which shows that a Dog Exercise Area will best utilize the land and add a positive feature for the area. The tract of land that is proposed for the Dog Exercise Area is an environmentally insignificant area, as identified by County Conservation Biologists. Development of the facility in this area will be possible without harming any of Mukwonago Park's significant natural resources. The project takes advantage of an existing under-utilized picnic area, parking, gentle slopes, and shade trees, thereby minimizing development costs.

What are the benefits of this project?

As part of Waukesha County Parks System's mission to provide its citizens with many different recreational opportunities and activities, this project will create a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities for residents.

- Dog Exercise Areas are recognized as community builders, creating a social interaction environment for citizens.
- Dog Exercise Areas provide a designated off-leash use area that minimizes conflicts with adjacent park activity areas, and allows dogs to run freely within an appropriately sized fenced area.
- Dogs who exercise regularly are healthier. Healthier dogs live longer.
 - This Dog Exercise Area will be an off-leash area which includes a large area for dogs to exercise in a specially-designed safe area.
 - They are an environment in which dogs can run freely and safely in a large park. Many dog owners do not have this large of space in their backyards for their dogs to exercise as freely.
- Dog Exercise Areas also promote more responsible pet ownership. They encourage owners to exercise their pet more often.
- The social interaction among pet owners at Dog Exercise Areas encourages other owners to exercise, socialize, and keep up with vaccinations for their pets.
- A new Dog Exercise Area at Mukwonago Park would generate an increase in patrons, which would help increase revenue to the park.

What will the Dog Exercise Area look like?

The basic elements of the Mukwonago Park Dog Exercise Area will include separate fenced areas with entrance gates for large and small breed dogs, mowed grass walkways, and accessible hard-surfaced walkways from the parking area. An existing park shelter will be incorporated into the design, and a small separate parking area will be provided for those who wish to access a designated dog swim area at one of the park's existing ponds.



Current gated entry to Nashotah Park's Dog Exercise Area



Current Signage at Nashotah Park's Dog Exercise Area

What is the timeline for this project?

With the assistance of continued fundraising, Waukesha County hopes to begin construction in 2013.

How much does this project cost and who is paying for it?

Waukesha County has \$50,000 in the 2013 parks operational budget with an additional \$25,000 from private-fundraising to contribute to the project. Based upon previous experience in the building of Dog Exercise Areas, typical costs have ranged from \$50,000 to \$100,000, depending upon existing improvements needed to the park. However, the proposed project area takes advantage of an existing under-utilized picnic area, park roadway, parking, gentle slopes, and shade trees, thereby minimizing development costs.

The cost to construct the facilities is returned through park user revenues, typically within two years.

What are the hours of the Dog Exercise Area?

The Dog Exercise Area will be open year-round during regular park hours, sunrise to 10:00 p.m.

Will there be a fee to use the Dog Exercise Area?

The use of the Dog Exercise Area is included in the park entrance fee.

Will the existing trails through the proposed project area be eliminated?

All existing trails will be relocated into other areas of the park. Department of Parks and Land Use staff will work with the groups that use the trails to plan for the relocation as a component of the Master Plan Update process.

Where can I find more information about this project?

On Saturday, September 29, you are invited to attend a kickoff event for the proposed Dog Exercise Area at Picnic Area 4 in Mukwonago Park, County Hwy LO, in Mukwonago. From 9 to 11 am, Waukesha County Park staff will be on hand to answer questions. County Executive, Dan Vrakas, will be there to kick off the project at 10:30 am.

Everyone, including your leashed, four-legged friend, is invited to learn about the proposed project and the fundraising efforts from local organizations - local community fundraising is required for the project to proceed. The park entrance fee will be waived for this event. Starting September 15th you can also purchase an annual park entrance sticker, which is valid for the remainder of 2012, for a reduced rate of \$14.00 for a county resident, \$7.00 for a resident senior citizen (60 years or older), or \$19.00 for a non-resident.

For other questions or comments, please phone Dave Burch, Enterprise Operations Manager, at (262) 548-7790. Project updates will be posted on the Waukesha County Parks and Land Use website at www.waukeshacountyparks.com.

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