



Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

Menomonee Park Dog Exercise Area (DEA) Project Frequently Asked Questions

Fast Facts about this Project

Waukesha County will construct a Dog Exercise Area, in partnership with the Village of Sussex at Menomonee Park, located at W220 N7884 Town Line Rd., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051. This will be the fourth off-leash Dog Exercise Area within the Park System.

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

Residents in the area expressed considerable interest in the development dog exercise area through inquiries to county and municipal officials and active social media posts. The development of a dog exercise area in the northeast corner of the county will satisfy a regional need for residents in that area.

What is the timeline for this project?

The County Board approved the project in the capital project budget on September 22, 2020. The first phase of construction is the paving portion. The first phase begins mid-October 2020. It includes sidewalks, crosswalks and the extension of the parking lot at picnic area 1. It will also include the addition of concrete at the three entrance gateway patios. Construction of fencing, gates and all remaining elements of the project will be completed in 2021. The opening date is yet to be determined.

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

The total project cost is estimated to be \$375,000. The Village of Sussex committed to funding \$125,000, and Waukesha County will contribute the remaining \$250,000 from the County's Tarmann Fund .

What are some of the design features of the project?

The design incorporates some of the existing park infrastructure, including parking, a picnic shelter with restrooms and a water source, while separating the facility from other popular use areas in the park. The scope of the project includes three separate areas, each with separate entrances to allow for seasonal closure of sections of the facility for turf maintenance and regeneration. An existing covered picnic shelter with modern restrooms will be incorporated into the facility to create the opportunity for a rental space for dog-related special events, which is a request that has become popular with patrons at Waukesha County's other DEA's.

The fencing layout will be designed to accommodate the closure of small areas for rental events. Due to the very shallow depth to bedrock in Menomonee Park, a unique buck and rail fencing system is proposed for the perimeter of the facility. This is a popular ranching fence style that is commonly used on large properties in the western United States. The design rests on grade and eliminates the need for costly drilling into bedrock for fence posts. Fence sections can also be moved around with heavy equipment if adjustments or closures are needed. The fence design will be modified slightly with the addition of the woven wire fencing, which is used as a standard fence element to contain the dogs at all of Waukesha County's DEA's. The addition of a new parking lot will supplement the two existing parking lots that will now be used for the DEA users.

Will it cost anything to use the potential Dog Exercise Area?

The dog exercise area will be open to all park users who wish to bring their dogs. Access to the site will be included in the park entrance fee. Most regular users purchase an annual entrance sticker.

Where will the Dog Exercise Area be located in the park?

The project will include a total of approximately 32 acres of the front of the park. Picnic Area 1 which will be incorporated into the DEA to provide restroom, water and an open air shelter and include approximately 12 acres of fenced run through open turf and wooded trails. The Picnic Area will be no longer be rented for daily private rentals, but consideration will be given to DEA related event rentals. An Additional 20 acres of fenced run with trails through natural vegetation will encompass the open space along Town Line Road, south of the park entrance.

What are the hours of the Dog Exercise Area?

This DEA will be open during regular park hours, sunrise to 10:00 p.m., similar to all Waukesha County DEA's. There may be periodic closing for maintenance or seasonal conditions.

What are the benefits of this project?

As part of Waukesha County Park 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.
- 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 Menomonee Park will generate an increase in park use, which in turn, will increase revenue to the park.

Can I donate to this project?

Yes, a public fundraising campaign will begin in 2021, to provide an opportunity for park supporters to donate to help fund future upgrades to the Dog Exercise Area project. The campaign will be posted at www.waukeshacounty.gov/donate

Where can I find out more information about this project?

Updates will be posted on the Waukesha County Parks and Land Use website at www.waukeshacountyparks.com
For questions or comments, you can call Waukesha County Park System at **(262) 548-7803**.