



Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

Mukwonago Park Dog Exercise Area Project - Frequently Asked Questions

Fast Facts About the Project:

Waukesha County is creating a dog exercise area at Mukwonago Park, located at W325 S9925 Beulah Rd., Mukwonago, WI 53149. 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 development at this location will satisfy a regional need. 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.

Why is the Dog Exercise Area now located across Beulah Road?

The location that was proposed for the DEA on the initial concept plan was chosen because it would use an existing parking area; however, through the Master Plan process it was determined that the initial location would not be large enough for the use without significant maintenance concerns, and it also presented pedestrian safety concerns as users would have had to cross the main park road to access the facility. The location across Beulah Road was identified as a more suitable location because it provides the larger space that is needed without disrupting current use of the park. The approximately 34 acres of land was originally purchased by Waukesha County with the intent to expand park facilities across Beulah Road, and development of the DEA in this location has been identified as the most suitable use for the land. The increased space will allow for fenced use areas that do not impact the natural resource base, and the separation from the main section of the park will also help to maximize pedestrian and dog safety and minimize interaction between users of the DEA and other users of Mukwonago Park.

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 Mukwonago Park would generate an increase in park use, which in turn, will increase revenue to the park.

What is the timeline for this project?

The installation of perimeter fencing was completed in the fall of 2013. Construction of the entrance drive, parking lot, entrance gates, and boardwalks was completed in spring of 2014. The Mukwonago Dog Exercise Area will officially open after a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 9th at 9am. On July 7th, at 9am the large breed area will be open for limited use, but please be aware that we may have to close it due to continued construction. Small breed dogs are allowed in the large breed area, at the owner's discretion. Follow us on twitter for up-to-date information.

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

Waukesha County has \$50,000 in the 2014 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. The cost to construct the facilities is returned through park user revenues, typically within two years.

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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. There will be a pay tank at the parking lot of the Dog Exercise Area and the area will be monitored by park staff.

What does the Dog Exercise Area look like?

The basic elements of the Mukwonago Park Dog Exercise Area include separate fenced areas with entrance gates for large and small breed dogs, mowed walkways through natural areas, two raised boardwalk crossings in wetland areas, and accessible hard-surfaced walkways from the parking area. Existing wetland and oak woodland areas were preserved on the property to provide for a very naturalistic experience.



Boardwalk over Wetland Area



Check Presentation held on June, 26

Is the Dog Exercise Area buffered from neighboring properties?

All fenced use areas have been set back significantly from property lines, and landscape screening will be used to augment existing vegetative buffers between the fencing and the property lines.

How will storm water runoff be managed?

The entrance drive and parking area were designed so that existing site drainage patterns are maintained, and no storm water is directed onto adjacent properties.

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. Lighting will not be implemented at the facility.

Is water provided at the Dog Exercise Area?

Currently there is no water service to the location.

Were the existing trails through the proposed project area eliminated?

The existing snowmobile trails have been relocated into other areas of the park. Department of Parks and Land Use staff worked with representatives from the local snowmobile clubs to plan for the relocation as a component of the Master Plan Update process.

Where can I find 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.