



City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford
Office of the Mayor
Contact: Elizabeth Treadup Pio
(508) 979-1410
etreadup@newbedford-ma.gov

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Final Design for New Dog Park to be Presented at Public Meeting

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 6 pm at Buttonwood Park Community Center

New Bedford, Massachusetts- The City of New Bedford invites the public to the Buttonwood Park Community Center on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 6 PM to view the final design plan for the new dog park on Hathaway Boulevard. The public reviewed and supported the original concept plan presented in April, minor modifications were suggested and have been incorporated into the final plan which will be presented by the City's design firm at the upcoming public meeting.

The dog park design and installation is funded entirely through a grant that the Stanton Foundation awarded to the City of New Bedford. New Bedford applied for and received \$21,940 for the design phase and \$222,472.00 for construction. The Stanton Foundation was created by long time CBS president, Frank Stanton, and has canine welfare and the strengthening of the dog-human bond as one of its core missions. It has supported the construction of seven dog parks in Massachusetts with several more under construction including this park in New Bedford.

"We are always looking for opportunities to improve on our great system of parks and public recreation areas. I am pleased that we have seized this opportunity to utilize grant funding for the design and construction of a dog park that will add another fun public space for residents and visitors to enjoy," said Mayor Jon Mitchell.

The dog park will be installed on Hathaway Boulevard between Greenwood Street and Ruggles Street on property acquired by the City in relationship to the Parker Street Waste Site remediation. A formal off-leash space for dogs has been a desire of the New Bedford community for some time. But, it wasn't until 2014 when under Mayor Mitchell's leadership a site for the park was identified; the City hosted public information sessions, solicited ideas for reuse of the land and ultimately presented the dog park proposal to the community. The neighborhood also agreed that a dog park would be the best reuse option for the parcels. The City then solicited input regarding design and best practices through meetings with city dog park advocates. City departments have also reviewed the proposed use of the site and support the development of a dog park in this location. The dog park will be managed by the Department of Parks Recreation & Beaches and maintained by the Department of Public Infrastructure. In

2008, the City Council established a Special Committee on the Feasibility of Creating a Dog Park and has since recommended criteria for the operation of such a park.

The proposed dog park will be an enclosed area safe for canines to play, socialize, and learn off-leash. The dog park will be accessed via a “swipe card”. Swipe cards will be available to owners of neutered, licensed dogs, with all vaccinations up to date, for an annual fee paid to the City. An information kiosk will provide park rules with contact information for the animal control officer. Owners will be responsible to clean up after their dogs.

The proposed dog park site will include:

- Black-vinyl coated chain link fencing (height: 5 feet) to enclose the dog park
- Double gated swing entrance/exit
- Two distinct play areas: one small dog area and one large dog area
- Canine agility elements: balance beam, climbing areas, and a sand pit
- Dog water station/fountain
- Seating areas
- Trash and recycling receptacles, dog waste bag dispensers
- On-site parking with walkway to the enclosure
- Shade tree(s)
- Swipe card access system
- Informational kiosk and signage

Pressley Assoc. are a well known and award winning landscape architecture firm from Boston. They have designed several dog parks and most recently completed the Bremen St Dog Park in East Boston.

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