

# Auburn Dog Park Committee

## Proposed Site Location and Cost Analysis



### Committee Members:

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# Auburn Dog Park Committee

## Overview

- At the request of the Auburn Board of Selectman, a committee was to be established to find a location for a community dog park.
- Town administration held a random lottery on December 22, 2016 to fill a seven-person committee, drawing names from among 23 residents who submitted letters of interest. Representation from each of Auburn's 5 precincts was required.
- The committee was tasked with:
  - Identifying possible sites for a dog park.
  - Conducting a cost analysis for the project.
  - Making a formal recommendation for a site to the selectmen.



# What is a dog park?

A **dog park** is a park for dogs to exercise and play off-leash in a controlled environment under the supervision of their owners.



Dog parks are for people too!





# Why do we need a dog park in Auburn?

- Provides a safe, fenced-in area to let dogs run, socialize, and play, unleashed – legally.
- Meets the needs of currently 2,300+ dogs and their owners in Auburn.
- Prevents off-leash dogs from running loose and entering others' personal space and property.
- Promotes responsible pet ownership by enforcement of dog control laws, licensing, and vaccinations; making for safer, healthier neighborhoods.
- Offers a great outdoor family activity, and encourages an active lifestyle.
- Gives persons with limited mobility the opportunity to allow their dogs to get exercise, or watch dogs at play.
- Makes the Auburn community more attractive to those people that are considering relocating here. Dog Parks are the #2 searched for amenity when looking to move into a new neighborhood. (Schools are #1.)
- According to veterinarians, a socialized and exercised dog makes a better neighbor, barks less, and is friendlier.



# Auburn Dog Park Site Selection Process

- Committee reviewed a list of approximately 25+ available parcels within Auburn.
- Parcel list was refined downward based on Stanton Foundation and Committee selected criteria. Examples: Water Accessibility, Parking, Shade etc.
- Remaining parcels were assigned to Committee members for onsite visits.
- Site findings (benefits/challenges) were discussed at Committee meetings.
- Based on site selection criteria and site findings, Lemansky Park was determined to be the best possible option for the location of a Dog Park in Auburn.
- Committee members met with Auburn Town Manager, Town Engineers and the Animal Control Officer to further consider aspects of sites remaining under consideration.



# Lemansky Park Site Advantages

- Preliminary site analysis meets Stanton Foundation grant requirements.
- Site is presently maintained by Auburn DPW.
- Availability of 30,000 sq. feet allowing for latitude in design specifications.
- Located within a recreational complex not a residential neighborhood.
- Minimal disruption to neighborhood anticipated.
- No significant increase in traffic forecasted.
- Abutters are not within direct line of sight of proposed site.
- Availability of access road and parking lot reduces overall total project cost.
- Environmental benefits (decrease in impervious area & addition of trees, shrubs & bushes as a component of landscape design).
- Grading is level and provides excellent gravity for surface drainage.
- ADA compliant.
- Public safety endorsement from APD Chief Sluckis.
- Fur-friends endorses the site. This is important to note as they have committed to providing 10% of the construction costs and future maintenance assistance.



# What will this cost Auburn?

This project is fiscally practical because of the availability of grants called The Stanton Grant.

These grants come in three parts:

- **Construction grants:** Construction grants will fund 90% of the park's "hard" construction costs. Construction grants range from \$100k to a max of \$225k.
- **Design grants:** Design grants typically range from \$10k to \$25k and are intended to cover up to 100% of the design costs.
- **Capital Improvement grants:** Are available at 12, 18 and 24 months after park opens for new equipment, repairs etc. Each grant is equal to 5% of the hard construction costs.

These grants do not cover routine maintenance.

The remaining upfront costs and maintenance will be taken care of as follows:

- **The non-profit "Fur-friends of Auburn" group has committed to raising the remaining 10% construction cost balance and to participate in annual maintenance.**
- Those who wish to use the park will pay a small yearly user fee. A portion of these funds will be allocated directly to maintenance.
- Dog license fees bring in more than \$30,000 a year to the town.

**Important Notes: Regarding Availability of Stanton Foundation Dog Park Grants**

- Stanton Foundation will fund 10 design grants each calendar year in Massachusetts communities.





# LEMANSKY PARK - Option A





# Comparative Dog Park Cost Data

City/Town	Population	Park Area Sf Ft	Total Park Cost	Cost per Sq. Ft
Mashpee	14,000	22,000	\$220,000	\$10.00
Agawam	29,000	65,340	\$202,000	\$3.00
Yarmouth	24,000	24,000	\$220,000	\$9.00
Chelmsford	33,800	87,120	\$247,000	\$3.00
W Bridgewater	7,000	10,000	\$94,000	\$9.00
Ayer	7,600	43,000	\$239,000	\$6.00
Fitchburg	40,000	43,000	\$230,000*	\$5.00
Average	22,200	42,066	\$203,667	\$6.00

Auburn	16,200	30,000	TBD*	TBD
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**Notes:**

- Fitchburg total park cost is an estimate at this time as they are currently in the Design Phase.
- Auburn total park cost would be determined during a formal design and estimation process.



# Comparative Dog Park Features

City/Town	Site Located W/I Recreational Complex	Non Profit Stakeholder Involvement	Misc. Dog Park Features
Mashpee	YES	YES	fencing, rice stone, gravel, 3 sections of double gates, special water fountain
Agawam	YES	YES	fencing, grass
Yarmouth	YES	YES	fencing, 3 sections of double gates, special water fountains
Chelmsford	YES	YES	fencing, grass & stone dust-- 1 section only. No parking lot
W Bridgewater	YES	*YES	fencing, infrastructure (water) & * non profit is forthcoming
Ayer	NO	NO	per RFP - a small covered shade structure is funded via Stanton. Rice stone surface. Design includes "timeout area" for hyper-stimulated dogs
Fitchburg	YES	YES	In design phase, site preferred location is "within proximity to fields & playgrounds"
Auburn	YES	YES	TBD



# Trends

- Stanton funded dog parks average about \$8 / square foot
- Stanton Foundation has a higher approval rate of dog parks in recreational complexes.
- 7 out of the 8 dog parks the committee researched had an affiliation with a 501c3 organization.





# LEMANSKY PARK - Option A





# LEMANSKY PARK - Option B



381

383

385

399

Proposed Dog Park Location  
- Size up to 20,000 square feet

# Our Recommendations

- Option A is our recommendation.
- We believe that it provides adequate room for a dog park to operate safely.
- This site is accessible to all residents regardless of their physical conditions.
- This site will not require the removal of any of the natural buffers including the trees and the berm.
- The cost of the relocation of the skate park has been addressed by the town engineers.
- The Fur-friends of Auburn support Option A.





# LEMANSKY PARK - Option A



# APPENDIX



# DATA SOURCES

- <http://thestantonfoundation.org/canine/dog-parks>
- <https://www.trulia.com/blog/5-neighborhood-features-that-boost-property-value/>
- [http://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=mes\\_capstones](http://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=mes_capstones)
- <https://www.facebook.com/StarwoodPetResort/videos/1459747544036431/>
- <http://docplayer.net/39091632-Beyond-the-dog-park-providing-community-benefits-via-innovative-off-leash-recreation.html>
- [https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/2016%20City%20Park%20Facts\\_0.pdf](https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/2016%20City%20Park%20Facts_0.pdf)
- <http://thestantonfoundation.org/assets/canine/Dog-Park-Resources/UC-Davis-Study-Dog-Park-Maintenance.pdf>
- <http://www.petsafe.net/barkforyourpark>
- <http://worthingtondogpark.com/frequently-asked-questions>





# Stanton Foundation Grant Recipients

- Agawam, MA
- Arlington, MA
- Ayer, MA
- Barnstable, MA
- Bellingham, MA
- Billerica, MA
- Boston, MA
  - Ronan Park, Dorchester
  - DeFilippo Park, North End
- Burlington
- Chelsea, MA
- Chelmsford, MA
- Danvers, MA
- Fitchburg, MA
- Greenfield, MA
- Kingston, MA
- Ludlow, MA
- Mashpee, MA
- Medford, MA
- Millbury, MA
- Natick, MA
- New Bedford, MA
- Uxbridge, MA
- West Bridgewater, MA
- West Springfield, MA
- Yarmouth, MA

