



TOWN OF HUDSON
PARK COMMISSION
Division of Recreation
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HUDSON DOG PARK – COMING SOON!!!

Why a Dog Park and what is it?

Think of a dog park as a safe and secure park that will serve residents and their dogs with the opportunity to play, learn and explore while off-leash. Dog parks provide benefits of both physical exercise and behavior training. They provide a chance for dogs to socialize with other dogs and humans; and help them become comfortable around other dogs and people in a way that is different than on-leash situations. Dog parks equally benefit the owners, as they become hubs for social interaction, provide opportunities to learn from others on how to train your dog, and provide a sense of neighborhood community.

When it began?

Residents have requested the town build a dog park for close to 10 years...

2018 - Town hires consultant to perform Community Outreach Survey and Public Input Sessions/Forums geared at assessing the community's wants/needs specific to Recreation. Final report identifies that developing an off-leash Dog Park in Hudson is a top priority for residents.

2019 – Recreation Town-Wide Master Plan is performed. One of the planning goals directly tied to this effort was to establish viable locations for a dog park.

February 2020 – Park Commission commit to prioritizing the dog park project based on planning efforts performed in both 2018 and 2019.

March 2020 – Covid strikes. All projects put on hold with the exception of the Centennial Beach Renovation Project.

Spring 2022 – Recreation Department connects with leaders from other municipalities who have designed and constructed dog parks while at the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association Annual conference. This opens the door for Hudson Recreation to connect directly with the Stanton Foundation, who offers grant programs for municipalities in MA who seek to design and build dog parks.

September 2022 – Hudson Recreation meet with 3 community members, linked to Hud Dog (“a citizen group in Hudson, MA formed to build, support, and maintain a dog park in town”). Hudson Recreation informs group that they are ready to move the project forward and asks for their support in researching what other communities have developed for rules/policies that govern dog parks.

October 2022 – Hud Dog shares, with Hudson Recreation, a Dog Park Proposal document that had been created in the spring of 2016. ([CLICK HERE TO: VIEW Hud Dog - Dog Park Proposal](#))

Progress Made to Date:

November 2, 2022

PARK COMMISSION MEETING – MINUTES

F. Update on Dog Park planning

Recreation staff held an introductory meeting with three residents who had previously expressed a high level of interest in assisting. The residents stated they would be willing to assist with the project and they were confident others would be interested in helping out as well.

Mr. Santos stated that he had already been in communication with the Stanton Foundation regarding grant funding, where grants are available for 100% design costs, up to \$25,000.0 and 90% hard construction costs, up to \$250,000.00. Mr. Santos stated that he felt confident in the Town's ability to secure both types of grants to support this project. Mr. Santos stated that while the Master Plan called out the Dog Park being built at Sauta Fields, there may be other locations that should be explored such as Farina Field or Apsley Park. Mr. Santos concluded by stating that in order to proceed with a grant application, a final location must be identified by the Town and asked the Commission how they wish to proceed in identifying that location.

Mr. Bowen stated that the Sauta site may be an easier build, as parking infrastructure and access to water is already in place at this location.

Mr. Chaves stated that access in and out of Farina may have its own set of challenges and also that he preferred not to take any action until Mr. Roan was present and could weigh in.

Mr. Bowen suggested that Mr. Santos start exploring firms who have recently designed Dog Parks for future consideration.

November 30, 2022

PARK COMMISSION MEETING – MINUTES

B. Dog Park Planning Update

Mr. Santos shared with the Commission that process the Town of Northborough had recently undertaken to develop an off-leash dog park. Mr. Santos referenced the contract and scope of work that had been provided from the Town of Northborough, stating that initial design costs for their project was \$35,500 and an additional \$31,000 was slated to be allocated to complete the final designs and cover some construction administration project costs.

Mr. Chaves stated that he was not surprised by the design fees paid by Northborough to date as they seemed appropriate for the scope of work performed.

Mr. Santos asked the Commission for guidance on further engaging with the residents in the community, asking specifically if the Commission wanted to handle the public engagement and outreach phase of the overall design process in-house or if they'd prefer an outside design firm handle this phase of the project. Both Mr. Chaves and Mr. Bowen stated that the design firm is selected to work with the Town to design the dog park should also be responsible for the public engagement and outreach phase or the project.

Mr. Santos stated that he supported this approach and would begin survey other communities together base-line information on their projects as well as compile a list of design firms that have been involved in design and construction of dog parks using Stanton Foundation funding.

December 3, 2023:

Downtown Holiday Stroll

Director of Recreation runs into and has conversation with individuals involved with Hud Dog at the Downtown Holiday Stroll. Director of Recreation informs them that the Park Commission voted to hire a design firm to assist with public engagement and input process, in addition to typical design related services; and that Recreation Department would be organizing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to be sent out after the holidays soliciting such services.

December 21, 2022

PARK COMMISSION MEETING – MINUTES

A. Update on Dog Park Planning Progress

Mr. Santos informed the Park Commission that he felt strongly there was no need to have an outside firm assist the Town in identifying possible locations for a dog park. Mr. Santos referred to the Community Innovation Sessions held many years back, that clearly identified the desire to have a dog park in Hudson. This subsequently led into the completion of the Recreation Master Plan where one of the primary goals and objectives of the stud was to identify up to three locations for a dog park. Continuing on Mr. Santos stated that while the Recreation Master Plan only resulted in identifying one location for a dog park, he felt that Farina field should also be explored as it was an underutilized property and many residents had expressed interest in having a dog park built at this location. In closing Mr. Santos stated that he did not envision a dog park being built at any other locations, given the current and near future programming needs. Discussion followed. All commissioners expressed their support to move forward with exploring both Sauta Fields and Farina field as possible locations for a dog park.

Mr. Chaves motioned to move forward with securing an outside firm to evaluate both Sauta and Farina fields for a dog park to built upon. Seconded by Mr. Bowen and carried...

Vote: 3 – 0, in favor

February 1, 2023

PARK COMMISSION MEETING – MINUTES

B. Update on Dog Park Planning

Mr. Santos stated that the RFP to secure a designer/consultant would soon be sent out to prospective firms.

February 14, 2023

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) SOLICITATION

The Town of Hudson, Park Commission – Division of Recreation is seeking a qualified consultant to assist with Initial Planning, Site Selection, Design Development and Preparation of bid-ready Construction Documents for a Dog park located in Hudson, MA. The Town intends to seek both Design and Construction Grant Funds through the Stanton Foundation Canine Welfare Grant Programs. Solicitation/RFP sent out via email to 24 individual firms.

[CLICK HERE TO: VIEW HUDSON DOG PARK RFP](#)

March 6, 2023

Request for Proposal (RFP) - Submission Deadline

Hudson Recreation received proposals from four (4) Design Firms. Hudson Recreation reviews proposals and conducts firm interviews as needed.

March 15, 2023

NEXT STEPS...

It is expected that on March 22, 2023 the Park Commission will select the design firm and recommend to enter in the contract with said firm, to be approved by the Select Board on March 27, 2023.

Once the selected firm is under contract with the Town of Hudson, the firm will meet with Hudson Recreation/Park Commission to kick off the planning and design process as outlined in the RFP. At this kick off meeting, the firm will assist Hudson Recreation/Park Commission in developing the strategic public engagement plan, where public input will be sought out.

For additional questions/comments or concerns, please contact Hudson Recreaiton directly.