

PARMA DOG PARK



Parma Area Dog Park Association, 501(c)(3)

The Parma Area Dog Park Association (PADPA) is dedicated to helping the City of Parma with establishing, funding, and maintaining a clean, safe, family-friendly dog park to benefit Parma area residents with an attractive destination where they can meet and allow their canine companions to play, socialize, and have fun.

Dear Mayor DeGeeter and City Council Representatives,

Thank you for your time in listening to our presentations in the City Council Chamber and reading through various email correspondence that our organization has initiated. As you know, the Parma Area Dog Park Association (PADPA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, has been working hard since 2012 to create an open dialogue and develop a mutually beneficial partnership between our organization, composed entirely of dedicated Parma area residents, and the City of Parma.

We believe Parma's commitment to "Progress through Partnerships" is something that sets Parma apart as a special community that is positioned for the type of greatness not typically found elsewhere. After all, Parma is the first city in Ohio and the 18th globally to have become a "Guardian City" – something that we think distinguishes this city as a forward-thinking place in relation to neighboring communities. And, because we believe wholeheartedly that Parma's elected officials only want what is best for Parma and actively seek out ways to enhance the quality of life for local residents, we also believe the City, in an ongoing partnership with PADPA, is prepared to act on Ordinance 55-05 and establish the city's first dog park.

A Parma Dog Park, as we are sure you would agree, would provide a much desired recreational destination for Parma area dog guardians and our cherished dogs. For many of us, dogs represent an extension of our family and we would like to provide our dogs recreational opportunities similar to what loving parents would like to provide their children with in regard to parks. This is a big reason why we continue to respectfully request that the City moves forward with Ordinance 55-05 and establishes a city dog park.

Because we care so much for our dogs, we continue to move forward to encourage the City to act and would appreciate the opportunity to partner with the city. Partnership with an organization like ours to assist with maintenance, funding, and safety education is something that was not even considered back in 2005 when the ordinance was first proposed and we believe this is something that should help to propel the initiative forward, if our City officials are willing to seize on this development! In partnership with the City, we hope to do our part to keep moving Parma forward!

Sincerely,

Katie M. Liepold
PADPA President



Parma DOG PARK

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Business Plan for Parma Dog Park

(A Working Document Seeking Input from the City)

Parma Area Dog Park Association

501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

Revised October 2014

Mission Statement:

The Parma Dog Park is meant to serve dog guardians to promote and foster healthy canines. Its mission is to provide a safe haven where canines can enjoy the outdoors off-leash to socialize and exercise with other canines under the supervision of their guardians and to cultivate lifelong animal friendships.

The Parma Area Dog Park Association (PADPA) is committed to enhancing the quality of the community through responsible pet care, ownership and charitable giving. It seeks to provide a recreational area where dogs and people can interact in a clean, safe and pleasant environment.

Establishment of Parma Dog Park:

PADPA recommends the City of Parma provide one (1) to two (2) acres of land for use as a dog park through a Memoriam of Understanding Agreement. We propose the following as initial steps to establish the Parma Dog Park:

PADPA will submit to the appropriate City departments the required application and documents for site plan review and approval. The PADPA understands that approvals

may be needed from multiple agencies including the Planning & Zoning Commission, the Parma City Council and/or other City staff.

- Clearing the site area (if necessary) through the use of companies that placed city approved bids and PADPA volunteers.
 - All trees removed will be used to create wood chips to be used in the park
 - Local tree/landscape companies to donate wood chips
- Install a 6' tall chain link fence around the perimeter of area
 - All gates will be spring loaded upon entry and exit
 - Initial entryway into the park sectioned off for leash removal
 - Separate sections with 6' tall chain link fence and spring loaded gates for:
 - Dogs less than 30 pounds
 - Dogs greater than 30 pounds
- Designate a parking area as required by the site plan approval process with the City.
- Install a large sign listing the rules of the Parma Dog Park. The proposed rules are as follows:
 1. Hours: Daily from dawn to dusk
 2. All dogs must wear a current issued dog license and a current rabies vaccination tag.
 3. Dogs must be leashed when entering and exiting the Dog Park. While outside fenced area please abide by Parma's leash laws
 4. Limit of 3 dogs per owner at one time.
 5. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.
 6. Aggressive dogs are not permitted in the Dog Park. Dogs must be removed from the park at the first sign of aggression.
 7. Female dogs in heat are prohibited from entering the Dog Park.
 8. Dog owners must be in the Dog Park and monitoring their dogs at all times. Dogs must be under their owner's voice control at all times.
 9. No food or drink **(other than water)** allowed in the Dog Park.
 10. No smoking or alcoholic beverages allowed.
 11. Humans must wear shoes inside the Dog Park.
 12. Owners must clean up their dog feces and dispose in designated receptacles.
 13. Fill any holes your dog digs.
 14. **Dogs under the age of four (4) months are not allowed at the park.**
 15. Failure to abide by the Dog Park rules may result in loss of privileges.
 16. Users of the Dog Park enter at their own risk. PADPA and the City of Parma are not liable for any damage caused to any person or property.

17. All users must immediately report any bite or attach to local authorities by calling 911.

- PADPA will offer an informational session on dog behavior and proper conduct at the park.
 - Inform patrons of the rules
 - Dog Park etiquette training
 - Post the official rules on <http://ParmaDogPark.wix.com/main>
- PADPA will provide the following for use by patrons:
 - Barrels for waste removal
 - Dog waste receptacles and pickup bag dispensers
 - Benches and picnic table which will be located inside the park
 - Running water from service is possible/future initiative depending on site allowance
- PADPA has secured an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Federal Government. The PADPA is a legal non-profit organization soon to be exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Liability Insurance of Parma Dog Park:

In a Parma Dog Park Memoriam of Understanding with the City of Parma, the dog park will fall under the umbrella insurance policy that the City already has in place covering all City parks.

Funding for Establishment of Parma Dog Park:

The establishment of the Parma Dog Park will be funded fully through donations from residents, non-residents and local businesses at no cost to taxpayers. PADPA anticipates raising the necessary funds by spring 2015. We anticipate closing fiscal year 2014 out at around \$10,000. The estimated budget includes:

Parma Area Dog Park Association

Initial Start Up Estimate

Item	Quantity	Price	Total Price	
Bench	5.00	150.00	750.00	The Home Depot
Dogipot	2.00	215.00	430.00	Waste Receptacles
Picnic Table	1.00	199.00	199.00	The Home Depot
Fencing (incl installation)	1.00	10,000	10,000	Estimate provided by X contractor
Signage	1.00	1,000	1,000	Possible Donation Item
Tipper Barrels	2.00	0.00	0.00	Possible Donation Item

Mess Bags – 1 yr	1.00	1,000	1,000	Estimate provided by X Dog Park
501c3 filing	1.00	200.00	200.00	Completed and paid for
501c3 tax exempt filing	1.00	400.00	400.00	To be completed before 2016
Total			13,979	

Funds will be raised through a variety of means including but not limited to:

- Direct appeals to corporations and businesses in Parma and surrounding cities
- Dog biscuit bake sale at various events
- T shirt sales
- Promotional Item Sales
- Pub Crawls
- Dog Wash
- Booth at Various Parma Events
- Pet Photos During Holidays
- Raffles
- Donation cans at various stores or venues (“Throw us a bone” campaign)
- Engraved walkway bricks (for the dog park)
- Pet Memorial Fence Section Plaques
- Kickstarter (see example of Detroit Dog Park)
- Grants

Operation of Parma Dog Park:

PADPA will be responsible for all supervision and operating expenses of the dog park. During the opening weekend of the dog park, PADPA members will be present during all hours of operation to review and enforce the rules of the park and inspect all dogs for license and rabies tags. During the first month of operation these reviews and inspections will be conducted daily at random times. After the first month of operation, random spot checks will be conducted a minimum of three (3) times a week with one (1) day being a weekend day. On an ongoing basis, members of PADPA will patrol the dog park a minimum of one (1) hour per weekday and three (3) hours per weekend. The Parma Dog Park will be open year round.

PADPA will remove and/or deny entry to any person or dogs that do not follow the rules of the Parma Dog Park.

PADPA will be responsible for all clean up, maintenance and beautification at the park.

PADPA requests that the City of Parma's Service Department be responsible for lawn mowing, waste collection and parking area snow removal during their normal schedule of operations.

Funding for Annual Operation of Parma Dog Park:

The annual operation of the Parma Dog Park will be funded through donations from residents, non-residents and local businesses. The estimated budget includes:

**Parma Area Dog Park Association
Annual Ongoing Estimates of Revenue and Expenses
Revenues:**

Restaurant Fundraisers	3,000.00
Bake Sale	1,500.00
Holiday Pet Photos	1,500.00
Booth at Parma Events	2,000.00
Dog Art Auction	3,000.00
Dog Wash	1,000.00
Total Revenues	12,000.00

Expenses:

Promo Materials	1,000.00	
Dog Mess Bags	1,500.00	
Mailers	600.00	If not donated
Miscellaneous Expenses	500.00	
Total Expenses	3,600.00	

Net Income	8,400.00
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Fundraising efforts and charitable contributions will continue to keep funds coming in to the Dog Park for site maintenance. In addition to those fundraisers listed above the following will be pursued:

- o Direct appeal to people at the Dog Park
- o Various events and classes held at the Dog Park such as dog shows, obedience
- o Training, agility training, health and fitness

Parma Dog Park Petition

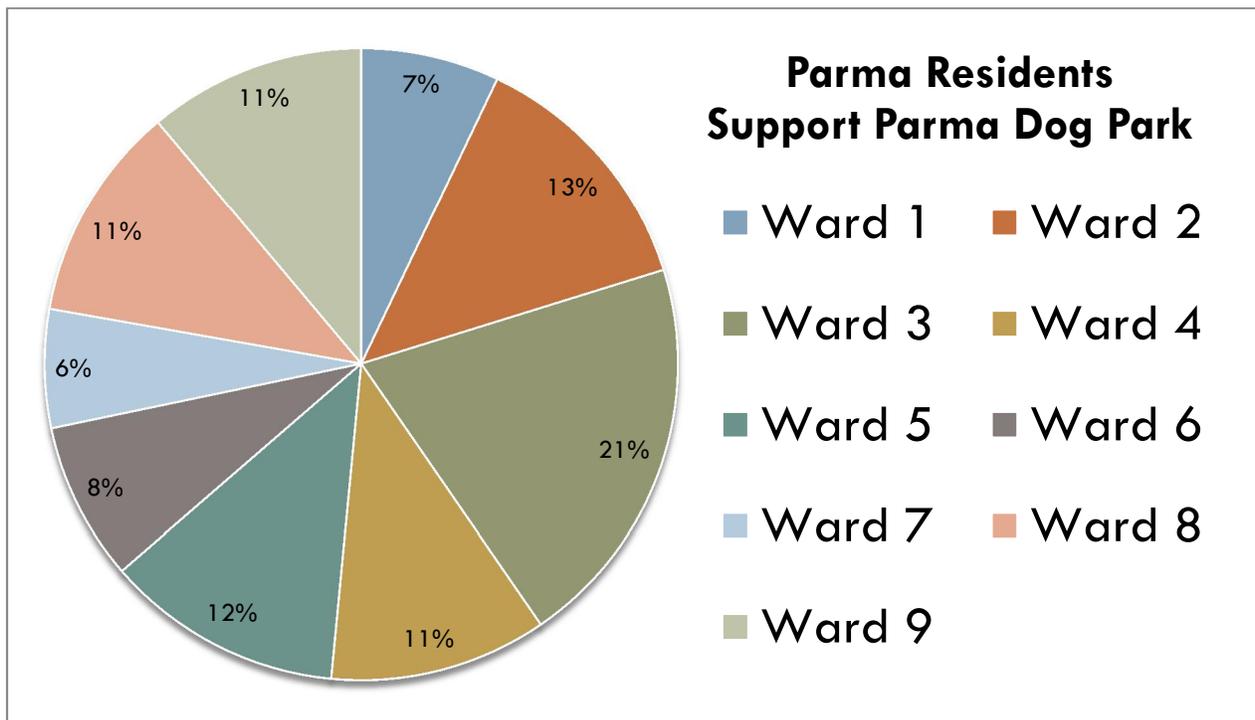
Parma Area Residents for Parma Dog Park

The Parma Area Dog Park Association has been busy collecting signatures from Parma area residents who would like to see a city dog park take shape. More than 1,000 petition signatures have been collected. The vast majority of the signatures collected were from Parma residents who accounted for about 73 percent of total.

The remaining 27 percent of signatures came from various communities around the Parma area, including Brooklyn, Cleveland, Parma Heights, Seven Hills, North Royalton, Strongsville, Broadview Heights, Brunswick, Fairview Park, and Medina!

To us, this indicates that a city dog park promises to make Parma a new destination for those who might have otherwise visited Stow, Lakewood, Tremont, or another place that features an off-leash dog park.

Below is a breakdown of support in Parma by ward (percent rounded):



Parma Dog Park Signature Total = 1,070 (853+217* = 1,070); Parma = **624** (624/853 = 73%); Other Cities = **229** (229/853 = 27%); Ward 1 = **45** (7%); Ward 2 = **81** (13%); Ward 3 = **126** (20%); Ward 4 = **69** (11%); Ward 5 = **72** (12%); Ward 6 = **53** (8%); Ward 7 = **39** (6%); Ward 8 = **69** (11%); Ward 9** = **70** (11%)

*Cities unknown for online petition;

**Preferred location for the dog park (State Rd park) is in Ward 9 (Crossman)

Letters of Support Published In the Local Newspaper 2013



Many Good Reasons to Have a Parma City Dog Park

There are always two sides to every story. However, when it comes to a dog park, animal welfare organizations, city governments and citizens are remarkably lining up on one side of support.

According to the American Kennel Club: "A community dog park would promote responsible pet ownership . . . promote public health and safety . . . and provide elderly and disabled (guardians) with an accessible place to exercise their companions."

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals adds: "The ASPCA supports the development of community 'dog parks' . . . as a means for urban dogs in particular to exercise off leash and socialize with other dogs."

This level of support is not far separated from our own community of Parma. In 2005, the Parma City Council, led by now state Rep. Nicholas Celebrezze, drafted an ordinance that authorizes the mayor to establish a dog park. It appears several council members still support the ordinance today, but there has been a lack of guidance and acceptance from the administration. So currently, that ordinance still sits in committee somehow, facing questions the drafters of the ordinance answered.

Today, I am proud to support the founding of the Parma Area Dog Park Association. PADPA follows the examples of groups such as FIDO in South Euclid and Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park, where citizens have come together to work with city officials to establish, fund, and maintain a city dog park. PADPA is dedicated to creating and maintaining a safe, friendly dog park in the Parma area where canines and their human companions can meet, play, and have fun.

Brandon Yanak, Parma (Ward 1)

Dog Park Benefits Seniors and Disabled

I am another supporter of creating a dog park in Parma. Many of the benefits of a dog park have already been discussed in letters previously posted on this page. They provide a great place to socialize dogs and to meet neighbors and new friends.

But one aspect of the rewards a dog park would provide has not yet been mentioned. Many people with physical disabilities and the elderly would greatly benefit by having a safe, contained area to take their dogs for exercise. Because of physical restrictions, many dog guardians cannot provide their dogs the level of activity they require and deserve.

Jennifer Fearing of The Humane Society of the United States has spoken to the social importance of dog parks, especially for animal lovers with physical ailments. According to Fearing, "Dog parks enable senior citizens and people with disabilities, who cannot always walk their dogs, a safe alternative."

As someone who deals with the effects of rheumatoid arthritis, I would fully appreciate having a place to take my dog where she can run off-leash, knowing she'll get as much exercise as she needs. I could enjoy my time with her and not worry about having to "keep up" with her energy level.

People with physical limitations would, obviously, still need to carefully monitor their dog's behavior in the dog park and abide by the rules regarding cleaning up after their pets. But a dog park would give people with limited mobility a wonderful option for both bonding with their dogs and providing them maximum play time.

A dog park would not just benefit the dogs in the city — it would also greatly assist many of its residents.

Barb Forestall, Parma (Ward 3)

Letters of Support Published In the Local Newspaper 2013



Genuine Need for Dog Park in Ohio's Seventh Largest City

I am a dog lover. In Parma, on a daily basis, I witness a vast number of citizens that have come to learn the value of the unconditional love and companionship that dogs offer us.

This is why we as citizens need to make it clear to our city officials and Mayor Timothy DeGeeter that a dog park is a not an amenity, it is a necessity.

The city made national news when Brandon Yanak stepped up and spurred the change that prompted Parma in becoming the first "Animal Guardian" community in the state of Ohio and the 18th Guardian City worldwide. So, how is it that as a city, we can take pride in this, but yet fall short in offering our companions the necessity of a community environment? A community environment is one where our dogs can socialize and exercise, while we as citizens get the opportunity to meet and talk with others that share the same love for our pets, our children.

I want to be "Proud of Parma," but it is difficult when our leaders are not setting the example they should be. Please do the right thing and continue the celebration of our dogs — our best friends, our children. Establish a dog park in Parma!

Christine McCloskey, Parma (Ward 1)

New Dog Park to Enhance City's Image as Pet-Friendly

It is exciting to see the first organized community effort to establish a dog park in Parma start to take shape. Over the past few months, I have greatly enjoyed reading the numerous letters submitted in support of a Parma dog park from dedicated members of the Parma Area Dog Park Association (PADPA) and other residents who appreciate the inherent value of a local-area dog park.

We have many to thank for highlighting the many benefits of a dog park and addressing the very legitimate concerns voiced by our council representatives. To be sure, Parma is very fortunate to have such passionate dog park advocates who have come forward in support of a dog park from within the city proper and neighboring suburbs.

But this is Parma, after all. This is the same city that took the lead in promoting the general welfare of pets when choosing to provide additional legal safeguards as it adopted language that now recognizes pet owners as pet "guardians." It became Ohio's very first "guardian city" — further enhancing Parma's standing as a proactive, pet-friendly, forward-thinking city. No doubt, our mayor and council representatives only want what is best for our community and this has been evident in all discussions surrounding the creation of a dog park.

The ongoing redevelopment and revitalization of our great city is a testament to the resilience of our community and a credit to the results-oriented approach pursued by our respective representatives. Together, we can continue to work hard to ensure Parma remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family. And, yes, that includes our furry four-legged friends and their "guardians" who would certainly benefit from a centrally located dog park in Parma.

Stefan P. Stefaniuk, Parma (Ward 2)

Letters of Support Published In the Local Newspaper 2013



The Time Has Come for a Dog Park in Parma

The first day of summer is also the Humane Societies "Take your dog to work day". Why don't we humans and guardians of "man's best friend" here in Parma make every day "Take your dog to the dog park day"? Dogs loyally wait, standing/sitting at windows, in garages, backyards, basements, in kitchens, etc. to share with the most important thing on their little devoted minds- you, their companion and friend. They wait for you! Give them a night out with their buddies; it can also be a night out for you to share your day with other hard working dog owners like yourself.

Parma, I believe, is just beginning to boom. Being the seventh largest city in Ohio, we should take steps to show off how mature, intelligent, responsible and humane we are by clearing all of the hurdles and instituting the first dog park here. Let's do this to help make Parma a more personal and "down to earth" city. I was walking in the Metroparks the other day, and I met a man walking his Boston Terrier. He suggested that the Metroparks start a dog park, possibly in the Snow Road Picnic area, near the pavilion. The Metroparks use our taxes to maintain a bridle path for just a few horses- why can't they find the funds to accommodate a much larger number of wound-up dogs and their equally stressed-out...owners?

I can't help noticing an enormous amount of wasted property there in a more centered area of Parma. There is enough space that a...dog park could occupy it. Signs can be posted informing people that they enter "at their own risk."

I know a lot of dog lovers, as do we all. Many people are unemployed. Volunteers would be plentiful. Dogs bring people together. I think a dog park would change life everywhere here in Parma; it's been a big success in Lakewood. It would be just like taking a child to the park. It is so very rewarding to see them play, and again, "let dogs be dogs."

Melanie Clink, Parma (Ward 1)

Dog Parks Springing Up All Over, Benefit People and Pets

I am writing to express my support for the creation of an official dog park in Parma.

Having frequented the unofficial dog park at the corner of West 54th and Snow Road with my two canines, I witnessed firsthand the benefits of having a place where dogs could run off-leash and socialize.

While this location was problematic due to the busy street and private residences on either side, the fact that this dog park existed for several years with rarely a complaint was a testament to the dedication and sense of community that those utilizing this park felt. The rules of the park were posted on the fence and people governed themselves according to these common sense guidelines. For the few that neglected to remove their animal waste, others were more than willing to pick up the slack in order to keep the grounds maintained.

Dog parks are not a novel idea; they are springing up all over the country and gaining in popularity. Why is this? Because dog parks are not just for the dogs; the human connections formed are meaningful and allow people to feel a part of the community, and where there is connection there is far less apathy.

We should look to the cities that have dog parks and acquire the information necessary in order to better understand what is involved; let us take action that this may become a reality. I hope that the committee trying so earnestly to create an official dog park will have success swaying council members to give this idea a chance.

Katharine Sarlog, Parma (Ward 2)