

PROPOSED KATAHDIN AREA DOG PARK

Friends of Katahdin Area Dog Park is an organization of local citizens who have joined together to promote the creation of a dog park in the Katahdin Region. Our group includes Obedience instructors, groomers, competitors at various canine events, as well as knowledgeable dog owners. As a group, we collectively share years of experience and knowledge of canine behavior.

We have been in contact with the Directors of Parks and Recreation in Bangor and Portland. They have generously answered our questions about their Dog Parks. In addition, we have contacted the Bangor citizens group who sparked the initial interest in that Dog Park. That group continues to work cooperatively with Bangor to make their Park a success. We are happy to share these contacts with you. They would all be excellent resources moving forward.



What is a Dog Park?

Dog parks are designated areas where dogs have the freedom to exercise and play in a safe, fenced environment. They may vary in size from one acre to several acres. They can consist of open areas, wooded areas and often have access to water. In addition to exercise, they provide a training space as well as a social gathering location for both dogs and their owners.

Dog parks are fast becoming an important part of the Parks and Recreation Departments of many Maine towns and cities, including Augusta, Bangor, Bath, Belfast, Brunswick, Caribou, Kennebunk, Portland, and so many more. These parks generally arise from a collaborative effort between the Town and a citizens group. We would like to offer our support to the Town as an advisory committee.



Our Mission:

To support the Town in the creation of a Dog Park for Katahdin area residents and visitors.

To provide a fenced, off-leash dog park where well behaved dogs can exercise in a clean, safe environment without annoying or endangering people, property or wildlife. This park would be open to all dog lovers and friends who are willing to abide by the park rules and regulations.

To create a space where dogs and their families can congregate and socialize in all seasons during daylight hours. This space would also be available for training, education and other dog related activities intended to encourage responsible dog ownership.



Dog Park Benefits to the Town

- * Provides a safe, fenced environment for licensed dogs to legally run free, play and socialize.
- * A dog who is well socialized to people and other dogs is less likely to exhibit aggressive or dangerous behavior.
- * A well-exercised dog is generally happier, quieter and better behaved, and therefore makes a better next door neighbor.
- * Dog Parks prevent off-leash dogs infringing on the rights of other community members, such as walkers and joggers, small children, and those who are afraid of dogs.
- * Park compliance with local dog ordinances for licensing and vaccinations will help create safer, healthier neighborhoods.
- * Provides an opportunity for dog owners to socialize and meet new friends with similar interests. These bonds of friendship strengthen local communities.
- * Promotes responsible pet ownership through education, training and information sharing between owners.
- * Gives the elderly, and people with limited mobility, the opportunity to exercise their dog in an easy to access environment.
- * Offers an opportunity for year-round family activity.
- * In addition to these many benefits to the Town, a local Dog Park is fast becoming a sought after amenity for potential residents. With the growing popularity of Dog Parks all over the US, potential residents now consider Dog Parks as a favorable amenity alongside libraries, recreational activities and access to day care.
- *Visitors and tourists also appreciate the opportunity to offer their canine traveling companions a safe place to exercise and play.



Proposed Rules and Regulations

DOG OWNERS are financially responsible for medical treatment of injuries caused by their dog. You are legally responsible for your dog's behavior, and you alone are responsible for your dog's safety and well-being. You enter this park at your own risk.

The **TOWN OF MILLINOCKET** is not responsible and shall have no liability for the acts or omissions of individuals or their dogs that utilize this Dog Park.

1. The Dog Park is open from Dawn to Dusk.
2. If your dog seems timid, overly aroused, stressed or aggressive, please remove the dog from the group area immediately.
3. Dogs must be vaccinated for Rabies and other vaccinations as recommended by their veterinarian. Dogs must be licensed by their Town.
4. Dogs must be leashed when entering and exiting the Park.
5. Owners must carry a leash at all times.
6. Owners must accompany their dogs inside the fenced area, and keep them in sight at all times.
7. Owners must clean up after their dogs and properly dispose of waste, as required by Town Ordinance _____.
8. No more than two dogs per person may enter the group play areas at any one time.
9. For safety, no children under 6 are allowed in the Park. Children under 18 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. Children's toys should be left at home.
10. No food, dog treats or glass containers inside the fenced areas.
11. No digging. Immediately fill any holes that your dog digs.
12. **Prohibited from this Park at all times:** Puppies under 4 months of age. Any dog showing signs of illness, females in season (in heat), and aggressive dogs. No bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, strollers, motorized vehicles, or pets other than dogs.
13. Dog Park users may ask anyone not abiding by these rules to leave the Park.
14. Infractions of any of these rules can result in temporary or permanent loss of Park privileges. All State statutes and Town Ordinances apply. Please direct any concerns or questions to _____.

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