

Dog Run Benefit Analysis

Sherrillbrook Park

1. Promotes responsible dog ownership. Prevents off-leash animals from infringing on the rights of other park users such as small children as those who are fearful of dogs.
2. Makes it easier to enforce leash law for Animal Control Officer, as dog owners with run access have no reason to allow their dogs off leash when outside the dog run.
3. Will promote licensing and vaccination.
4. Allows dogs to exercise and socialize. Dogs who are accustomed to playing with animals and people other than their owners are more likely to be well socialized and react well to strangers.
5. Dogs need room to run. An enclosed dog run permits them to do so while preventing them from endangering themselves and others. For example, running into the path of an oncoming vehicle.
6. Makes for better community by promoting public health and safety. Well-exercised dogs are better neighbors who are less likely to bark excessively and destroy property.
7. Provides an outlet for dog owners to socialize.
8. Shows town is a progressive community for those relocating to New Hartford.
9. Dog Run fees will pay entirely for operational and maintenance costs of run. Average fees are \$40.00 annually x 150 anticipated first year registrants = \$6,000. Anticipated yearly maintenance costs for lime, access cards, minor repairs and daily maintenance estimated at \$2,500. The required number of registrants to meet maintenance costs is 63. Anything above and beyond operational costs will help defray original construction costs or be utilized for future improvements. Of three parks visited, the average annual registration was over 70.

Other Related Issues

1. Three dog parks were visited – Wegmans Dog Park located in Onondaga Lake Park, Rome and Clifton Dog Parks. Site visits; phone conversations with dog park managers, classes provided by the NYSPR Society, and input from animal control were all factors used to develop design criteria and regulations.
2. All recommendations have been reviewed and recommended by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.
3. All involved department heads, Town Justices, Town Attorney, Police Chief and Animal Control have reviewed and made their contributions to proposed regulations.
4. Location of site will also help to alleviate parking concerns now existing at the southern end of Sherrillbrook Park.
5. Construction Costs: Enclosure - \$18,000 to 22,000 includes fencing, concrete and surfacing. Access system - \$6,800.

Note - Access system will provide picture identification, which can serve other departments such as Police and Playgrounds for child and employee I.D. programs and serve future needs for program registrations. System can be completely intergraded with town network utilizing high-speed internet and town's main server.

All costs are contained in the approved 2007 parks operating budget!