



*Monkton Community Dog Park Newsletter
Issue 6, Dec. 4, 2022*

A Community Dog Park for Monkton -- Newsletter

Welcome to our anniversary issue of our *Monkton Community Dog Park* Newsletter!

You are receiving this newsletter because you have asked to be added to our email list, or have shown interest in receiving news about our progress. To unsubscribe, please write to us at dogpark@monktonvt.com

The Monkton Community Dog Park is now a full 2 years old! On Nov. 21, 2020, we tentatively opened the dog park under the state emergency (Covid) authorization, which allowed outdoor activities with plenty of social distancing. The dogs were thrilled, and so were their owners who were desperate for safe outdoor activities to keep the dogs exercised. In May of 2021, we held our official Grand Opening, and here we are, looking back on two years of operation, and planning our second Anniversary Celebration.

In this issue, we are going to look back at this past year, and share our excitement about both our successes and our upcoming plans.

First, let's start with a **Note of Gratitude** from all of us on the Monkton Community Dog Park Committee, to all of us who use and love the dog park:



The Monkton Community Dog Park Committee is thankful for:

- Everyone who pitches in to help keep bark mulch in the mud wallows, picks up poop whether it's from their dog or not, and brings a sense of community and love for dogs to the park with them.
- Brian Cota, for organizing multiple deliveries of much-needed free wood chips to the Dog Park and Davey's for recently joining in with their support too!
- Andrew Peterson, Sam Peisch, Paul Low, and Bob Wahl for taking on the Shade Structure project (see more below). We will all be super grateful in the heat next summer.
- All the donors, large and small, and the volunteers who keep the Dog Park going and make it a safe, fun place for dogs to play and dog people to meet and visit. We are especially grateful to Committee Members Jolene McKay and Linda Anderson Krech, who organized the Silent Auction at our anniversary celebration, and beat the bushes to find great donations to entice our bidders.

We would like to take this opportunity to ask you all to join us in marveling at the fact that this incredibly successful community resource is 100% donor funded and volunteer run. Monkton is amazing!



Our Second Year at The Monkton Community Dog Park

We had some fun events this year that we want to revisit, and especially savor those memories of summer days at the park.

Anniversary Party - In early June, we celebrated our second year with an anniversary party and fund-raiser. We ate cake, made new friends, and thanks to many generous donors, held a silent auction that raised \$1673.



Chani and Ella enjoy the chance to sit down for a moment at the party.



Jolene's amazing maple sap bucket planters! She has promised to bring them back next year -- and if you bought a planter at the party, Jolene will recycle them so she can offer new floral arrangements for sale next year. Contact dogpark@monktonvt.com to coordinate the bucket return.



Paul and Jane Low introduce their new puppy to some of the regulars who came to the Celebration.

Halloween Treats - The day before Halloween, we left the Dog Park for a visit up the hill where we participated in Monkton's wonderful Trunk or Treat event. Visitors to the Dog Park van went home with a pair of dog biscuits and a Monkton Dog Park sticker, and of course, candy!



Got Shade? - Yes, we will have a Shade Structure (see more details below). We are again the grateful recipients of a generous grant from the Vermont Buildings and General Services Recreational Grant Program, which awarded us \$1500 towards the construction costs of the Shade Structure. With volunteers from our community to guide the project, we will get this built within the next year. A big THANK YOU to the State of Vermont, and the Board of the Vermont Buildings and General Services Recreational Grant Program.



A Seasonal Perspective on Running a Dog Park: Remember Mud Season?

In the late spring of 2022, we put up a snow fence to keep the dogs out of the mud. We reseeded the entire fenced-off area, and by mid-summer the grass had sprouted well, and we were able to take the fence down. Actually, we are thankful to Andrew Peterson and friends who did this voluntarily, and carefully stored the materials away for re-use when needed. Next spring, we hope to use a more robust seed mix, and make some headway against the happy muddy dogs who like to create and roll in mud puddles.

While we wait for Mud Season to roll around again, we get to enjoy the beauty of Winter.

Winter Weather Advisory

From your friends at the Monkton Community Dog Park

Please help us keep the gates open!

Pups and people love the snow, but our gates can be damaged when pushed through heavy snow.

If you arrive and notice that the entry gates have not been cleared, please take a few minutes to shovel before you walk on the snow and pack it down.

This will help us keep the gates in good shape for the rest of the year!

Are you ready for Winter?

It won't be long before the ground is frozen and the wallows are full of snow. Everyone who enjoys the park can help keep the gates open by spending a few minutes shoveling the snow around the entry gates if you arrive while it is still fresh and soft. Once it is packed down, it can be impossible to dig it out, and the gates can freeze closed

We will post our "Winter Weather Advisory" at the Park and on our Facebook page when winter really arrives, and we will put the shovels out for everyone to pitch in. Thanks so much for helping keep your dog park open!



Coming Soon!

Yes, we will have a Shade Structure! Despite many fits and starts, a team has come together to pick up the lagging Shade Structure project and get it done! Andrew Peterson-stepped forward and volunteered to make the Shade Structure happens. He organized a team, pulling together resources within the Dog Park community, and got the project permitted and planned. Andrew has been joined by Bob Wahl and Paul Low, to provide construction skills, equipment, and expertise and Sam Peisch has volunteered to provide cheerful support at all stages of the project. On Dec. 1, Paul Low and Bob Wahl brought in their equipment and crews, and poured the footings, hurray! Next, when the weather allows, above-ground construction will start. By the time the summer days get hot, we will have a place to cool off.

To review, in the early summer of 2021 archaeologist Scott Dillon returned to the Dog Park with a small crew from the Department of Historic Preservation to ensure that no artefacts would be lost when we sink the posts for our newest project. To date the project has gained the approval of the Monkton Rec Committee, The Vermont Housing Conservation Board, and the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation, and the Monkton Development Review Board and Zoning Administrator.

We are already planning next year's anniversary celebration, and have some great ideas for it. Jolene will return with her amazing maple sap planters, and we have a few surprises in store for you all as well. Stay tuned to hear more as our plans come together!



A Reminder:

MONKTON COMMUNITY DOG PARK

WELCOME!

Please read and understand all dog park rules before using the dog park.

Dogs must be licensed, vaccinated and healthy

Dogs must be kept in sight and under voice control at all times

Limit: 2 dogs per adult

Minimize excessive barking

Dogs in heat and dogs under the age of 12 weeks are prohibited

Pick up your dog's waste and dispose of it properly

Dogs that display aggression toward people/dogs must be removed immediately

Children under 12 must be supervised by an adult

Keep your dog from jumping on other dogs or people

Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries caused by them

No glass, food, alcohol, or smoking - all other Morse Park rules apply

Hours of Operation: The Park will be open from dawn to dusk.

In an emergency, please call 911.

Questions or concerns?

Contact dogpark@monktonvt.com

The Monkton Dog Park Committee and/or Town of Monkton will not be liable for any injury or damage

Join Us!

The Monkton Community Dog Park Committee is transitioning our focus from BUILDING a dog park in Monkton to MAINTAINING our Community Dog Park, and we are welcoming new members to support us as we move forward. If you are interested in joining us, please contact dogpark@monktonvt.com. We look forward to planning fun events and ensuring that the Dog Park continues to be a fun, safe, place for our pups to meet and play.



FUNDRAISING

A big THANK YOU ♥ to Wahl Landscaping, our newest White Ribbon Sponsor!



We would also like to thank our new Construction Sponsors Kathleen Quesnel and Bill and Connie Houston; and Community Supporter Jill Peterson, and a shout-out to those of you who are utilizing our Amazon Smile fund-raiser!

One of the realities of owning dogs is cleaning up after them, and one of the delights of a dog park is the poop bag dispenser and waste can RIGHT THERE! so the clean-up job is easy and doesn't go home with you. But those bags have to be purchased, and this will be a significant and on-going expense, despite the generous discount offered to us by our vendor, Yucko's. We all want the beautiful grassy field to stay beautiful and grassy, and this involves mowing and trimming along the fenceline. Again, this is a significant expense. Our goal is to never have to burden the Monkton taxpayer with any costs related to the dog park, so we will continue to look to our supporters for funding for these on-going expenses. Here are some ideas on how to help:

- Are you looking for that special gift for a dog-lover in your life? Or are you the dog-lover, and someone is asking you what you would love to receive? How about a donation in your (or your pup's name) to the Dog Park? Skip the in-person shopping, or even the on-line stress, and give the gift of helping the Dog Park.
- You can now use Amazon Smile to generate funds for the Dog Park! For any holiday or shopping need, if you use Amazon for your shopping, you can select the "Monkton Community Coffeehouse" as a charitable recipient, and 0.5% of the purchase price (for all qualifying purchases) will be donated directly to our bank account. All you have to do is go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4429225> to start your shopping! It's easy to do, and your purchases will not cost you anything extra.
- We are providing an opportunity for dog-lovers to memorialize a beloved pet's life with a small engraved plaque. For \$25, your pet's name and information can be engraved on a dog tag, and your dog can play on in memory at the park.
- As public health conditions permit, we hope to continue to offer events at the dog park which will help us raise money through small attendance fees and donations.
- We will continue to receive donations at both our PayPal (<http://monktonvt.com/community/monkton-community-dog-park/>) and our GoFundMe (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/monkton-community-dog-park>) links. If you prefer donating by check you can do that too! Please make your check payable to Monkton Community Dog Park and mail it to Monkton Town Hall 92 Monkton Ridge North Ferrisburgh, VT 05473.



Questions, concerns, want to pitch in and help?

We are committed to ensuring that decision-making for the Monkton Community Dog Park is an inclusive and transparent process. Anyone interested in joining the workgroup or sharing ideas is welcome. The next meeting of the Dog Park Committee is Thursday, Jan. 5, **2023** at 7:00 pm by Zoom. Please contact us (see below) for meeting login information. If you're allergic to meetings, and just want to lend a hand, drop us a note and we'll gratefully come up with a plan for you.

To come to a meeting, join the committee or request additional information contact us at dogpark@monktonvt.com.

We look forward to seeing you at the Dog Park!