



## **A Community Dog Park for Monkton -- Newsletter**

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

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The Monkton Community Dog Park is now a full 3 years old! We opened quietly on Nov. 21, 2020, in the early days of the pandemic, then in May of 2021, we held our official Grand Opening. This November, we are celebrating three years of happy dogs and happy owners, and in the spring, we'll host our third Anniversary Celebration.

In this issue, we are going to focus on giving thanks for our successes and achievement, and the incredible generosity of our supporters, who have made it all possible. This incredibly successful community resource is 100% donor funded and volunteer run. Monkton and our community are amazing! 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.
- 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.
- A big thank you to Bill Houston, who brought his weed trimmer to the park all summer long, and kept the entry area and front of the park neat and tidy.
- Our former Committee Members Jolene McKay who created the beautiful Maple Sap Bucket planters for our annual anniversary celebration and fundraiser. Jolene always pitched in to to the maintenance rotation, and was our daily welcome committee in the Dog Park. We miss seeing Jolene on a daily basis, but she and Arrow have promised to be frequent visitors.
- The dogs! Our beloved companions who bring us out in all kinds of weather, and remind us that play and exercise can brighten any day.



**Special thanks** go to the Paul Low, Bob Wahl, and the late Linda Reynolds, and to the organizations that have supported the Dog Park so strongly: Vermont Buildings and General Services, and the Town of Monkton through the ARPA grant program. Please read our tributes to these important supporters below.

## Our Shade Structure is Complete!

### Timeline

**2021:** A Shade Structure was proposed as a Girl Scout Gold Project

**2022:** Andrew Peterson and Sam Peisch volunteered to take over the abandoned project 2022, and took it through the initial design and permitting process.

**Dec. 1, 2022:** Bob Wahl and Paul Low took over, and poured the footings.

**July, 2023:** Red School House Contracting (Paul Low and crew) finished building the Shade Structure.



**Red Schoolhouse Construction and Wahl Landscaping** have built a beautiful and solid hexagonal roofed shelter, with 8-foot-wide sides that gives instant relief from the hot summer sun. Paul and Bob generously donated much of the labor, and the materials costs were mostly covered by our donors, with a matching grant from the Vermont Buildings and General Services Recreational Grant Program. The Monkton Recreation Committee, recognizing the value the dog park and this shade structure adds to Morse Park, requested that the Selectboard approve the use of federal ARPA funds for the balance of the costs expended. Thank you, MRC!

We moved one of our benches within the Shade Structure to allow people to relax in the shade while watching their dogs play. A peak cap and wood chips will be added in the spring to finish off the project.

A big THANK YOU to the State of Vermont and the federal ARPA program, the Town of Monkton, and the Vermont Buildings and General Services Recreational Grant Program.

The ability to apply for and receive \$5,250 in ARPA funds for this project has enabled us to pay off the balance of the project and has placed the MCDP on solid financial footing allowing us to remain focused on raising the funds needed to keep the park up and running smoothly.

**Bob Wahl** graciously agreed to bring an appropriately sized piece of equipment to the Dog Park to move a large amount of fill that our Monkton Road Crew brought over from the school parking lot reconstruction project to supplement the low areas of the dog park. Sorry, dogs, but the mud wallows are much reduced! Bob moved the sandy fill into the wallows, smoothing it down and filling in the low spots the dogs had created. Next spring, we'll only need to reseed just those areas, and we should have a much longer season to enjoy the full park.

### Wood Chips

Thank you, Harry and Gillian, for the contribution of wood chips to the Dog Park! And welcome to Monkton♥♥♥

## Linda Reynolds

We remember Linda Reynolds in gratitude for her work in the initial stages of forming the Dog Park. Linda had a deep love and connection for all animals and always had a houseful of dogs, along with chickens, goats, horses and cats! She was dedicated to her animals and their well-being and loved the idea of a space where folks could gather with their dogs in community! Linda was rarely without an animal by her side. We are grateful for Linda's time, energy and love in helping form the dog park. She will be greatly missed.



*Linda with her last Mudi dog, Kooza*

## Our Third Year at The Monkton Community Dog Park

We had some fun events this year that we want to revisit, and savor those memories of summer days at the park. Our fund-raising efforts went to support our grant request to the Vermont Buildings and General Services Recreational Grant program. By the time of the grant deadline, we had raised \$1700, which they matched toward the materials costs of the Shade Structure.

**Anniversary Party** - In early June, we celebrated our third year with an anniversary party and fund-raiser. BEVO joined us with a beverage booth (thank you, Kathleen Stine!), and La Chapina and daughters brought fabulous tostitos for snacks and take-home delight. The MCDPC commissioned a fantastic Tres Leches cake, and attendees made new friends, ate tostitos and cake, drank the beverage of their choice, and played with the dogs. The winner of our 50:50 raffle generously donated their entire profit back to the Dog Park. Along with numerous smaller donations, combined with the sales of Jolene's Maple Sap Bucket planters generously planted, cared for, and donated to the Fundraiser, helped kick off our fund-raising for the Shade Structure. Thank you to all our supporters!

**Trunk or Treat** - Members of the MCDPC again joined the costumed crowds at Monkton's wonderful Trunk or Treat event. Visitors to the Dog Park baskets went home with a pair of dog biscuits and a Monkton Dog Park sticker, and of course, candy! Cathie, Ian, and I all agreed that the Dalmatian pups with the fireman chasing the fire (Mom) were the cutest costumes there.





Sniff, I catch a whiff  
Treats are in the air  
But Where

Nose up, rotate  
Ha over there

Ssh let's sidle over  
Let's not tip off Rover

WOOF, too late the alarm is raised  
Now we are all crazed

The dash is on to the one  
Who stands mortified against the advancing pack  
BACK, STOP, SIT !

With hanging tongues, wagging tails and longing eyes  
We wait for our treat surprise  
Me me me oh please me

Whoa just a minute, what a Jackass  
This is a discipline class!  
Agggggg's, O\*\*\*\*\*, Yelps and Howls  
*--Contributed by Ivor Hughes*



Finally, a big Thank You to Newsletter contributors Cathie Buscaglia, Lizzy Woolf, and Ivor Hughes, from the editor Deb Gaynor, and a forever Thank You to Linda Reynolds for our Dog Park logo.



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

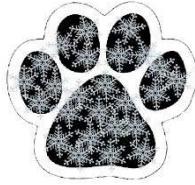
We again put up a snow fence late in the spring to keep the dogs out of the mud wallows. We raked up the bark mulch in the wallows, then fertilized and reseeded the entire fenced-off area with a tough, hardy seed mix, and by mid-summer the grass had sprouted well, and we were able to take the fence down. The new grass grew beautifully. Thank you Nora Woolf for the introduction to Oliver's Seeds in Milton!

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 snow arrives. Everyone who enjoys the park can help keep the gates working 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!

## Winter Caution

Veterinarians in other New England and at least one western state are reporting a serious new and unexplained respiratory illness in dogs. We also know that every winter, kennel cough and other respiratory viruses are spread in dogs that spend time in close quarters with other dogs, such as in kennels and dog parks. Please remember the hard lessons we have learned from our own encounter with a respiratory pandemic, and keep your dog home if they are exhibiting signs of a respiratory illness -- a cough, sneezing, runny eyes or nose, fever, and/or lethargy. Call your vet, and please keep your dog isolated until they're better!



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

We would also like to thank our repeat Construction Sponsors Bill and Connie Houston; and Community Supporter Richard Mintzer, and a shout-out to those of you who are utilizing our fund-raiser!



## Current Goals

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 is a significant and on-going expense, despite the generous discount offered to us by our vendor, Yucko's (thanks, Yucko's!). To help pay for the bags and trash can liners, we are introducing a fun new way for you and your dog to be part of the Dog Park community. For just \$25 per month, your dog can be featured as the Poop Bag Patron of the month! Your dog's picture and name will be displayed with a thank you graphic next to the bag dispenser in the entry area of the Dog Park. Check it out in December (our kick-off month), and contact us to be the next Poop Bag Patron!

We all want the beautiful grassy field to stay beautiful and grassy, and this involves mowing and trimming along the fenceline (thank you Bill Houston, for all the volunteer trimming last summer!). Again, keeping the grass nice 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.
- Dog-lovers may 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.
- Help organize and support events at the dog park which help us raise money through small attendance fees and donations. Event suggestions welcome too!
- 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 just dropping in to share ideas is welcome. The next meeting of the Dog Park Committee is Thursday, Dec. 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](mailto:dogpark@monktonvt.com).*

**We look forward to seeing you at the Dog Park!**