



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 4 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 fall, we marked four years of happy dogs and happy owners, and in the spring of 2025, we'll host our fourth Anniversary Celebration.

In this issue, we are going to focus on THANKS and GIVING. We are so thankful to our supporters and donors, especially those who make contributions (both financial and through their work for the dog park) year in and year out. It is this incredible generosity of our supporters who have made it all possible. Bill Houston shows up with his trimmer and careful eye for our fence. Kip sneaks in with grass seed. Jean patrols the grounds every time she comes and picks up poop that was missed by a distracted owner(s). Jim and Bill and Connie and so many others make yearly donations that help us pay for mowing, poop bags, and other expenses. This incredibly successful community resource is 100% donor funded and volunteer run. Monkton and our community are amazing! All of us on the Monkton Community Dog Park Committee give our thanks to all of you who use and love the dog park, and who give your time and money and energy to ensure that it continues to be a success:



The Monkton Community Dog Park Committee wants to also thank our many unnamed supporters -

- 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.
- 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 Kathy and Steve Alexander, who won the 50:50 raffle at our spring fund-raising party, and donated their winnings to the Dog Park! Lucky and generous!



We Built a Gazebo!

Red Schoolhouse Contracting 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 gazebo add 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 into the gazebo to allow people to relax in the shade while watching their dogs play. This spring Paul Low added a hand-carved dog wind vane, and Bob Radler and Doug Schmidt shoveled wood chips donated by new Monkton residents (welcome!) Gillian Epler and Harry Mead to the shady area to finish off the project.



Special Recognition

This fall, the Monkton Community Dog Park Committee dedicated the gazebo to Paul Low, who donated his and his crew's time and labor to building the gazebo that we have all enjoyed through the hot summer days. We presented a plaque made by Monkton's own Wooden Hammer (thank you Ben Raphael!) during a meeting of the Monkton Recreation Committee. You can see the plaque hanging in the gazebo anytime you visit the dog park.

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.

Our Fourth Year at The Monkton Community Dog Park

Anniversary Party - In early June, we celebrated our fourth year with an anniversary party and fund-raiser. Special guests Patti Casey and Tom Makenzie provided music in the new gazebo, and a great turnout of dogs and their friends and families enjoyed great music while they played.



BEVO joined us again with a beverage booth (thank you, Kathleen Stine and ace bar-tender T-Bone!), and La Chapina (Wendy and daughters) returned with fabulous tacos for snacks and take-home delight. The MCDPC provided cake, and attendees made new friends, ate tacos and cake, drank the beverage of their choice, and played with the dogs.



MCDPC Chair Cathie Buscaglia greeted our attendees and supporters with the following message:

Welcome to the MCDP 4th annual celebration, we are so glad you are here!

My name is Cathie Buscaglia and I along with Deb Gaynor, Ian Schultze, and Kerrie Garvey are your MCDP Committee. This year we are so excited to have Patti Casey and Tom McKenzie here sharing their music, a huge thank you to them for their generous donation of time and talent.

We are also excited to have Wendy from LaChapina serving up her delicious food and Thomas from BEVO here with libations to help quench our thirst.

I also want to welcome our new neighbors, the Riverflow Community, we are so thrilled you are joining the Monkton community.

As we reflect on the past year, we once again realize how it's the community that the dog park has created that really helps to keep us moving forward. We'd like to recognize some of the things we are grateful for.

❖ Everyone who picks up poop, whether it's from their dog or not, pitches in to help keep bark mulch in the mud wallows, snow and ice from the entrances, and brings a sense of community and appreciation to the park with them during each visit.

❖ Paul Low and the Red Schoolhouse Contracting crew and Bob Wahl of Wahl Landscaping for taking on the Shade Structure project and getting it done! This beautiful gazebo is now providing shelter and a comfortable place for people to sit and visit while watching their pups play.

❖ The much-needed mulch donated by Gillian Epler and Harry Mead (welcome to Monkton!) delivered and spread by Doug Schmidt and Bob Radler.

❖ Bill & Connie Houston for their constant unwavering support and to Bill, who regularly brings his weed trimmer to help keep the park neat and tidy and for spreading the pile of dirt that has lingered in our parking lot since last 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 for dog people to meet and visit.

❖ As you can see, we have many supporters, but there's one that has gone above and beyond to support the dog park and the committee. We want to recognize Paul Low as an Outstanding Supporter for all that he has done to support the dog park since it was just an idea. He has generously donated his time, talent and money to support and improve every aspect of the park. From fence installation and repairs to the construction of the beautiful gazebo and windvane, Paul has consistently been a champion of this dog park and many projects across the town of Monkton. For that we thank you and will be mounting this plaque in the gazebo as a permanent reminder of our gratitude.

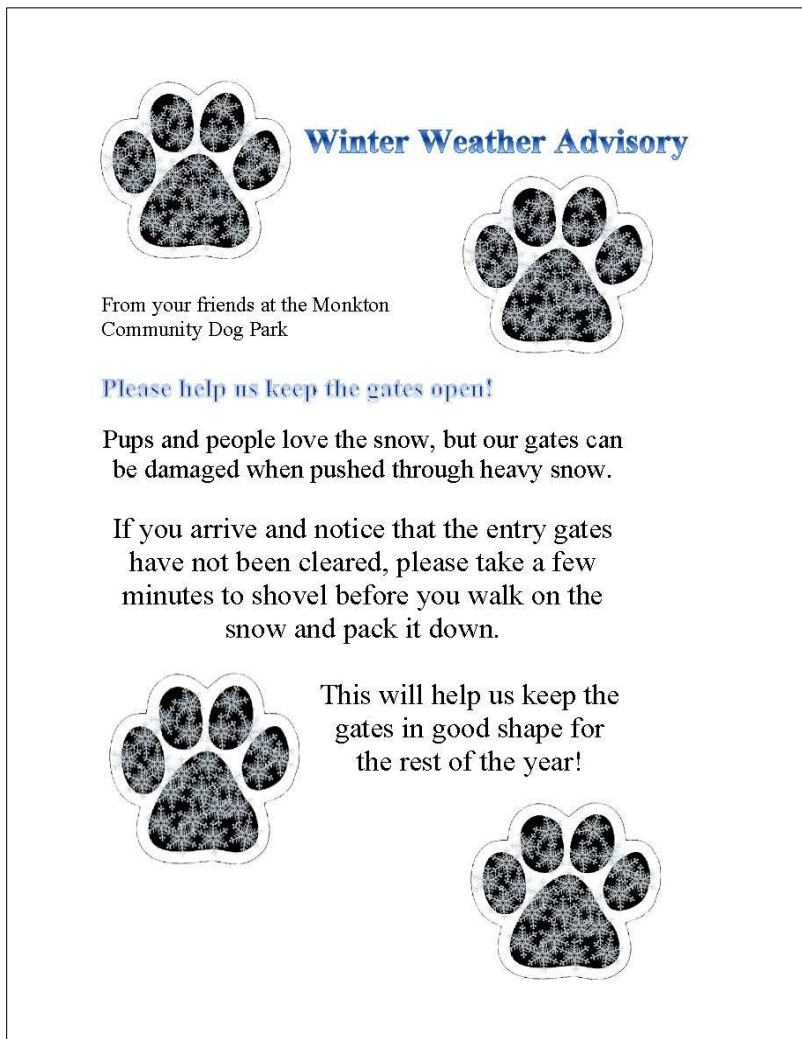
This dog park is 100% volunteer funded and maintained and today we are hosting a 50/50 raffle to support the ongoing cost of maintenance so please buy some tickets. The drawing will be held at 3pm. Until then enjoy the music, food, and company.

Thank you!



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

We are making progress on getting grass to grow in what started out as mud wallows. Last year, we raked up the bark mulch in the wallows, then fertilized and reseeded the area that was doing poorly with a tough, hardy seed mix,. We put up snow fence to let the grass grow and by mid-summer the grass had sprouted well, so 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!



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!

In the spring of 2024, we were able to halve the area that we reseeded. Our faithful dog park regular Kip brought over his seeder and spread grass seed, and we over-seeded that with the same tough mix we used last year. By fall, it was clear that this was a winning combination. A few low-lying spots remained stubbornly bare, but with the addition of a little good soil, and another year of light seeding, we should be able to keep all areas of the dog park open throughout the year.

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

Are you ready for Winter?

It won't be long before the ground is fully frozen and the serious 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!



Sneeze Season Reminder

Veterinarians are reporting early spread of kennel cough and other respiratory viruses, particularly 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

The Monkton Dog Park Committee and/or Town of Monkton will not be liable for any injury or damage caused by any dog or person in the park. Users of the park do so at their own risk. All dogs and their owners must comply with the Town of Monkton Animal Control Ordinance.

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

We would also like to thank our repeat Construction Sponsors Bill and Connie Houston; and Jim and Sue Burnett, 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!).

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, again, for all the volunteer trimming last summer!). Keeping the grass nice is a significant expense. We depend on you, our supporters, for funding these on-going expenses. Here is our focus on GIVING:

- 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!
- If you prefer donating by check we love that! Please make your check payable to Monkton Community Dog Park and mail it to Monkton Town Hall (Attention: Dog Park), 92 Monkton Ridge, North Ferrisburgh, VT 05473.
- We also love 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. You can CTRL-click on the links if you are reading this electronically, or you can copy and

paste the links into a browser window. You can also access the GoFundMe link through this QR code and your phone's camera:



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 Dog Park Committee meetings are usually the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm by Zoom; for January 2025, we have scheduled the meeting for January 2 (Thursday). 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!