



*Monkton Community Dog Park Newsletter*  
*Issue 9, Nov. 21, 2025*

## **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](mailto:dogpark@monktonvt.com)

The Monkton Community Dog Park is celebrating our 5<sup>th</sup> birthday! 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 five years of happy dogs and happy owners, and in the spring of 2026, we'll host another Anniversary Celebration.

In this issue, we are again 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). 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 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 especially thank Bill and Connie Houston for their unwavering support! We would also like to sincerely thank the Monkton Recreation Committee (MRC), which covered the cost of mowing for the Dog Park this year. We also want to 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.



## **Community Spotlight:**

### **→The Gazebo!**

Last year, **Red Schoolhouse Contracting** and **Wahl Landscaping** built a beautiful and solid gazebo that gives instant relief from the hot summer sun or untimely rain or snow. Everyone who has enjoyed the shade and the comfort of the gazebo this year remains grateful to Paul Low, Bob Wahl, the Vermont Buildings and General Services Recreational Grant Program, the Monkton Recreation Committee and the Selectboard for allocating some of the ARPA funds, and many generous donors!

We also have a new-to-us bench in the Dog Park, thanks to the generosity of Lisabeth Sewell, who donated the bench, and Bob Wahl, who sent the ever-reliable Ethan and Matt to move this lovely, heavy bench down the stairs, into their truck, and into the Dog Park. Many thanks to all!

### **→Play Dog Play Brings Joy to the Monkton Community Dog Park!**

The Monkton Community Dog Park has a little extra wag in its tail, thanks to the generosity of Play Dog Play and their operations director, Carly Svetlik. Play Dog Play offers daycare, enrichment days, and boarding at their Burlington and Williston locations, helping dogs stay happy, healthy, and social.

Recently, Play Dog Play donated a brand-new toy box filled with an assortment of dog toys — giving our four-legged friends even more ways to run, fetch, and play together. From squeaky balls to tug ropes, these new additions have quickly become favorites among the park’s regular visitors.

“We’re thrilled to support a space that brings so much joy to dogs and their owners,” said the Play Dog Play team. “The Monkton Community Dog Park is a wonderful resource, and we’re happy to give back to the community that supports us.”

The Monkton Community Dog Park Committee extends heartfelt thanks to Carly and Play Dog Play for their thoughtful donation and continued support of our local canine community. Contributions like this help keep our park fun, welcoming, and enriching for dogs of all sizes and personalities.

Next time you visit the park, be sure to check out the new toy box — and join us in giving a round of *ap-paws* to Play Dog Play for their community spirit!



## ***Our Fifth Year at The Monkton Community Dog Park***

**Anniversary Party** - In early June, we celebrated our fifth year with an anniversary party and fund-raiser. A great turnout of dogs and their friends and families enjoyed the party. BEVO joined us again with a beverage booth (thank you, Kathleen Stine and local bar-tender Roberta),

and La Chapina (Wendy Giron and daughters) returned with fabulous tostadas for snacks and take-home delight. The MCDPC provided cake (thank you, Ian!), and attendees made new friends, ate tostadas and cake, sipped the beverage of their choice, and played with the dogs. MCDPC Chair Cathie Buscaglia greeted our attendees and supporters with news and updates about the Dog Park:

Welcome to the 5th Annual MCDP Celebration!

We're so glad you're here!

My name is Cathie Buscaglia, and I'm joined by Deb Gaynor, Ian Schultze, (Kerrie Garvey couldn't be here today)—together we are your dedicated MCDP committee.

We're thrilled to welcome back Wendy from LaChapina, serving up her delicious food, and Roberta from BEVO, here to keep us refreshed with some fantastic libations.

It's hard to believe, but the Monkton Community Dog Park has now been open for **five full years!** What started as a dream has grown into a thriving, welcoming space where dogs can run free, and neighbors become friends. As we reflect on this milestone, we're reminded that it's the *community* we've built together that keeps this park going strong.

We'd like to take a moment to recognize and appreciate some of the things that make this park so special:

- **To everyone who picks up poop**—whether it's from your dog or not—thank you! And to those who help spread bark mulch in the mud wallows, clear snow and ice from the entrances, and bring kindness and connection with every visit: we see you and we're grateful.
- **To our generous donors**, big and small—your contributions keep the park safe, welcoming, and fun for our dogs and for us humans too.

This park has always been **100% volunteer-funded and maintained**, and we can't do it without your support. We're always looking for new volunteers and deeply appreciate every donation—whether it's your time, effort, or financial support.

We wrapped up the party by drawing the lucky winner of the 50:50 raffle.



## **Winter Fun—We're Going to the Dogs at MOVIE Night!**

Please join us in our newest doggy adventure. The Monkton Community Dog Park will be showing a series of classic, dog-themed movies this winter in the Monkton Town Offices Community Room. Showtimes will be:

Saturday, January 10 at 5 pm

Saturday, February 7 at 5 pm

Saturday, March 14 at 5 pm

We are still waiting to hear which movies will be available for which dates, but they will be chosen from a list of classic, beloved movies from the 1960s through the 1990s. You saw them when you were a child, but have your children and grand-children seen them? Come share the love, along with perhaps a little popcorn, in the comfort of the Community Room just down the road from home, with your friends and neighbors. Bring a pillow and a blanket for the littlest members of your family to cuddle up and watch their new favorite dog be a hero.

This is a fund-raiser for the Dog Park, so we encourage you to come out and support us! Movie rentals for public showings are expensive, but we are trying to Balance making this affordable as well as helping us pay the bills. Tickets will be family-affordable, at \$10 suggested donation for adults, with 12 and under free.

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

We are making terrific 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!

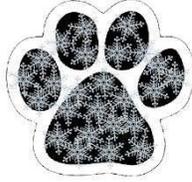
This year, John McNerney brought over several loads of soil excavated from the new hard court on the other side of the Pavilion, and helped level it out. We then seeded the new soil, and repeated the seeding for those particular areas multiple times during our very dry mid-summer weather. We also over-seeded other areas where the grass was a bit thin, and by the end of the summer, the whole park looked better than it has since we originally fenced it in. We hope that the muddy areas will stay drier all winter and spring, and be ready for intense summer play.

Thank you, John!



## Winter Weather Advisory

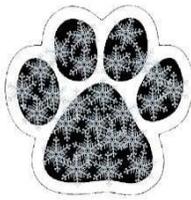
From your friends at the Monkton  
Community Dog Park



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!



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

Please remember to 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!



## Don't Forget:

### 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 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 focusing on 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 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 click on either of the links, or copy and paste them into a browser window. You can also access the GoFundMe link through this QR code and your phone's camera:



Thank you, Nora Woolf, for managing our Go Fund Me account!



### **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 2026, we have scheduled the meeting for January 7 (Wednesday). 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!**