

From: Josh Frankel <j_frankel@me.com>
Subject: Siting a Dog Park in Scarsdale, Part II
Date: October 5, 2021 at 3:42:26 PM EDT
To: Mayor <mayor@scarsdale.com>

Honorable Mayor Veron:

I am writing, along with 300+ fellow Scarsdale residents, to request that the Board revisit the abandoned 2018 idea of siting a dog park within Scarsdale. I would begin by reminding you that at its Sept 25, 2018 meeting, the Board recognized “the potential recreational value and benefits of a local dog park and is supportive of further evaluation of the feasibility and prospective costs...”. The resolution containing that language passed unanimously. We need not expound on the community benefits - to both dogs and their humans - of dog parks.

As a few Trustees are aware from your 2018 stints on the Board, several sites - most notably at Weinberg Nature Center - were considered. In the end, the small, vocal Not In My Back Yard, i.e. NIMBY, contingents of residents won the day, and the idea was scuttled.

The Village’s Maintenance Facility sits on 11.06 acres. It is bordered by Secor Rd., Palmer Ave., and Ramsey Rd. On the image immediately below (an overview of the Facility bordered in red) I have outlined, with a dashed yellow line, where the park might be sited. Below that is a more detailed view of how the park might look which, of course, is flexible if other configurations prove more workable.

Most of the proposed site is currently idle, open, unused space. To make the proposal a reality, the Village should consider repurposing perhaps 10,000 - 12,000 square feet of wholly unused Maintenance Facility property to allow ingress/egress from/to Secor Rd., pave a small (~20 car) parking lot, and allot a bit of additional room for the park. Without too much effort, we could realize a space of ~40,000 square feet (~0.92 acre), as seen below.

There are no immediate neighbors to the proposed site. It is bordered across Secor (west) by Village property (Sanitation), to the south by the working area of the Maintenance Facility, and across Palmer (east) by protected wetlands. NIMBY is solved.

There are currently ~450 licensed dogs in the Village, and I’d suggest it’s possible the number of unlicensed dogs is in the same vicinity. Requiring a license to use the park would certainly increase the number of licenses issued by the Village, with a commensurate increase in revenue. If the Village charged, say, \$100 per year per pass for dog-owning households' use of the park, I think it’s reasonable to estimate perhaps \$30,000 in annual revenue from passes (300 dogs), which would more than offset annual maintenance costs. By way of comparison, New Rochelle’s Paws Place at Ward Acres Dog Park issues passes to non-residents at \$100/year (with significant fines for non-compliance).

A petition in support of siting a dog park in Scarsdale is here: www.change.org/scarsdaledogpark. The petition reads, in part: "Dog parks are an invaluable community amenity, and one that Scarsdale is sorely lacking. It's time to ask the Board of Trustees to revive a 2018 initiative and finally site a dog park in our community. If you are a Scarsdale resident - and please, Scarsdale residents *only* - support us in this mission by adding your name." There are currently over 300 signatures, which I don’t think it is necessary for me to include with this correspondence.

I would appreciate the Board taking a fresh look at what can be done to achieve this laudable goal, and am willing to work with the Board and the 2018 proponents to make it so.

Thank you for your consideration.

Josh Frankel
Black Birch Lane



