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Dog park and more slated for Green River Park

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GREENFIELD — It looks like the town may finally get a dog park, and a few improvements to one of its parks in the process.

Greenfield will apply for a state grant this month to pay for improvements to Green River Park on Petty Plain Road, which will include an enclosed dog park, as well as the construction of a pavilion, improved drainage to the parking lot, Americans with Disabilities Act improvements, a new playground, and basketball and pickleball courts.

According to Christy Moore, the town's director of recreation, Greenfield could receive as much as \$400,000 for the project.

Moore said the town is also working with an anonymous foundation to help offset the cost of designing and constructing a dog park there. The foundation has pledge to pay 90 percent of the cost of building a dog park if the town finds a spot to build it.

The town will hold a public meeting on Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. in 20 Sanderson St. to discuss the proposed renovations and dog park and get input before it submits the grant application, which is due June 18.

The town will submit a Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant application and expects to hear by November whether it has received one and for how much.

“We are extremely fortunate to have not only found a site most are satisfied with for a dog park, but also have the opportunity to improve another neighborhood park,” said Mayor William Martin. “This site will allow our residents to exercise their dogs while enjoying all the activity that normally takes place at that park.”

A group called Paws Park has been working with the town for about two years to find a location for a dog park, which will include a fenced run with two sections — one for small and one for large dogs. That park would be open every day from dawn to dusk.

Greenfield was recently named a “Playful City USA” for the third year in a row because of all of the work it has done on its parks. Over the past several years, the town renovated Beacon Field, the municipal swimming pool and Hillside Park, and it built new playgrounds at a couple of its schools.

Martin said he would like to see park renovations and improvements continue.

Moore said the town expects to begin renovations of Green River Park in summer 2015.

“We are so appreciative to have found a foundation that is willing to work with the town in designing and constructing Paws Park,” said Moore.

For more information about the proposed project, attend Wednesday’s public meeting, call Moore at 413-772-1553, or email her at:

christym@greenfield-ma.gov



Cara Leach of Greenfield walks her dog Little at the Green River Park off Petty Plain Rd in Greenfield. Recorder/Paul Franz

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