

Team work: Green River Park wins design award

Recorder Staff

GREENFIELD — Once an overlooked and underused facility, Green River Park off Petty Plain Road underwent extensive renovations last summer, transforming it into a community gathering space.

The state has selected the park for the 2017 Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association's Design of Facility Agency Award, which recognizes departments that create and renovate facilities that enhance their community.

Mayor William Martin said it was truly a Greenfield municipal team effort to plan, prepare and complete the

project.

"When I say a team effort, I mean several departments working together for the common community good," he said in a news release.

Those groups include the Planning Department; Central Maintenance; the Department of Public Works; the Recreation Department; Paws Park supporters and the Recreation Commission.

Recreation Director Christy Moore accepted the award during the 32nd annual MRPA State Conference earlier this month.

"This is our recognition of a dream come true, from concept to completion," Moore said in the release. "The park



Green River Park is off Petty Plain Road in Greenfield.

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is truly a wonderful asset for our community and our four-legged friends."

The 22-acre park on the southern edge of Greenfield is

adjacent to where the Green River converges with the Deerfield River. The land was originally acquired by the town in 1911 and was used as

a tree nursery for Greenfield's Street Tree Program in the late 1920s. Most recently, the park featured an outdated play structure, a cracked basketball court and softball fields. The softball fields were preserved in the renovation, while the rest of the park underwent major rehabilitation.

The renovated area includes a new playground, pavilion, picnic tables, benches, bike racks, a basketball court, pickleball court, paved parking area and a dog park.

The entire park design and renovation was strongly influenced by the residents of Greenfield, who have advo-

cated for a dog park since the early 1990s. In 2012, there was a renewed effort for the creation of the park, and a dedicated group of individuals rallied and raised money for the cause, working with the town's Recreation Department and Recreation Commission to determine the best location.

In addition to strong support for the dog park, there was also massive support for the construction of an outdoor pickleball court, which was also included in the park redesign. The renovation was made possible with a minimal amount of town funding, thanks to a grant from the Stanton Foundation and a state PARC grant.