

# THE RECORDER

Published on the *The Recorder* (<http://www.recorder.com>)

---

## Hidden park may become one of Greenfield's most popular after \$700K renovation

By ANITA FRITZ

Recorder Staff

Monday, May 4, 2015

(Published in print: Tuesday, May 5, 2015)

GREENFIELD — When renovations are completed on one of Greenfield's parks next spring, the town's recreation director said she believes the hidden park will become one of the town's most popular.

An almost \$700,000 makeover is planned for Green River Park, which is accessible from Deerfield Street, and the town's first dog park will be located there.

Renovations will also include a new playground with updated equipment, new basketball and pickleball (a tennis-like game played with a Wiffle Ball and paddles) courts, new picnic pavilion and a bike path and walkway. Renovations are expected to begin in late fall and be completed in spring 2016.

"We are really excited about the new recreational opportunities for our residents — those with two feet, and for our four-legged friends," said Greenfield Recreation Director Christy Moore.

Dog parks have become social gatherings not just for canines, but for their owners and other citizens, as well, said Moore.

"People come to run their dogs, but they also come to talk to other people about something that they have in common — a love for animals, what their dogs are doing and how they're developing," said Moore. "I think a dog park will draw a lot of different kinds of people."

Moore said there are people who visit dog parks just to watch dogs — mostly because they can't have one.

"It's a way to enjoy them," she said.

The community will get its first look at schematic plans for the park, which is not visible from Greenfield streets, on Wednesday night.

To get to the park, walkers, bikers and drivers must take Meridian Street to Petty Plain Road, which ends

at the entrance to the park. Another way to reach it is to take a small footbridge across the river from Deerfield Street, where there are a couple of parking spaces at the entrance.

Moore said her department will give a PowerPoint presentation on Wednesday at 6 p.m. at 20 Sanderson St. She said the landscape designers and consultants the town is working with will be at the meeting to answer questions.

The town will use a \$400,000 state Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Community grant (PARC), along with \$50,000 that Town Council approved several months ago. She said the rest — \$240,000 — will come from The Stanton Foundation, a nonprofit that was established by Frank Stanton and his wife in 1991. The foundation donates money each year to projects providing dog welfare.

Moore said many of the mature trees that stand in and around Green River Park will remain, and the parking lot will be renovated.

“Right now, people park however they want,” said Moore. “When we’re done, we’ll have about 35 designated parking spaces there.”

The dog park and pickleball court will be Greenfield’s first, and the pavilion will be its second.

“We’ll be able to rent the pavilion for private events, like we do at the swimming area, and we’ll be able to use it for town events, as well,” said Moore.

She said the town plans to hold a grand opening next spring.

Leonard Design Associates in Arlington is the landscape architect and J.R. Russo Associates LLC in East Windsor, Conn., is the engineer. The town is also working with L.E.C. Environmental Consultants in Worcester.

Moore said new bicycle racks and benches will be installed in the park, and it will be more accessible than it is now.

She said the town will begin looking for a contractor once the state and foundation have approved the plans — the state has to approve all of the plans, because of the PARC grant, while one of the requirements of the foundation is its approval of the dog park plans.

Moore said she doesn’t expect problems with either, because the town and its designers followed all of the criteria provided.

For more information about park renovations or the meeting, which is not a public hearing, call 413-772-1553.

---

**Source URL:**<http://www.recorder.com/news/townbytown/greenfield/16767234-95/hidden-park-may-become-one-of-greenfields-most-popular-after-700k-renovation>



Source URL: <http://www.recorder.com/news/townbytown/greenfield/16767234-95/hidden-park-may-become-one-of-greenfields-most-popular-after-700k-renovation>