

Bark in the Park continues Dog Park Inquiries

Congratulations to Bill Weisbeck and the Clarence Lions Club on another very successful Bark in the Park. This year's Bark in the Park was the best and most attended ever. The weather was slightly cooler compared to the upper 80s during the previous week, which made for a perfect day for our pet friends.

Over 1,500 people and 800 dogs registered for the event. 133 volunteers helped the Lions Club including Lion members from the Lockport and Youngstown club. Awesome Paws and Open Arms rescue along with 12 other rescue agencies were in attendance as well. The Lions Club changed the layout and some events, which made for a smoother running day. The Dachshund races refereed by Tim Pazda returned, which are always a fan favorite. 70 vendors were in attendance for the daylong event. This has certainly become an iconic event not only for Clarence, but for all of WNY.

On the heels of a successful Bark in the Park there were discussions at the event and on social media about the Town of Clarence having a Dog Park. Though the Town does not have an official Dog Park the Town allows dogs on 11 miles of bike trails, the 100-acre Nature Center and the 400-acre Beeman Park. Plenty of places to exercise your dog.

Dog Parks have both pros and cons that the Town Board has considered in the past when the subject of a specific park is discussed. Certainly, the socialization your dog experiences when at a park is important, as well as the exercise they receive when getting out of the house.

Unfortunately, the cons far outweigh the pros when considering a park. First and foremost, there is a health and safety risk to your Dog when visiting a Dog Park. Most if not all parks are very loosely controlled, so your healthy animal can be exposed to other dogs that are diseased or carrying parasites. Canine distemper, parvovirus, kennel cough, and canine influenza are just a few of the diseases. Worms, giardia fleas and ticks are a few of the parasites.

Dogs are by nature territorial and protective of their master. Anytime there are multiple dogs together there is chance of a fight or injury. Different breeds and sizes add to the possibility of something bad happening to your dog. At Dog Parks, when there are fights between dogs, there almost always is a human ending up bitten. The ambulance is often going to the Amherst Park for that reason. There have also been situations where an unmonitored animal is involved in a fight, but the family may leave without anyone knowing if the dog was vaccinated or not.

Sadly, the videos are endless when searching Dog Park fights on You Tube. Many fights are due to irresponsible dog owners who are not watching out for the welfare of their animals. Dogs in the wrong area or not being watched at all when the temperament of two animals is increasing.

That aside, there are costs for maintenance, cleaning, insurance, and more.

For the reasons above this is why dogs are not allowed in our parks. With 11 miles of trails and 500 acres of open space the residents of Town of Clarence have many areas for their dogs to exercise.

Next up for our town is Red, White and Brews this coming weekend. It is the major fund raiser for Clarence Citizens for Veterans. Marty Helowicz and his group of volunteers help support our veterans in need, especially when other organizations fail them. Thank you, Marty, and the Clarence Citizens for Veterans for everything your organization does for our Veterans.

Fireworks are also coming back this year at the Main Street Town Park on Saturday, July 1st at dusk!
More details will be coming soon!