



# Norwood Dog Park

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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**Q: Why was Norwood chosen and when did the site proposal receive favorable input from the public?**

**A:** Data from the [2019 Site Suitability Study for Dog Parks](#) identified Norwood Local Park as a recommended location for a dog park in Bethesda due to its walkability for residents in downtown Bethesda and proximity to the Bethesda Central Business District. It also has few physical constraints for development and allows for adequate space to buffer the dog park from residences. Montgomery Parks obtained public input through the [Open Town Hall forum](#) on preferred sites in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Service Area. Norwood Park was one of the top sites chosen by community members for a dog park in this area. In addition, Parks staff have observed dogs both on and off leash at Norwood at all hours of the day. This project would allow for dogs to play safely off-leash, help reduce conflicts between different users, and promote social interaction.

**Q: Will the dog park project address the parking issues at Norwood? Will the dog park project increase parking capacity at Norwood Local Park?**

**A:** The project will not increase parking capacity but will include at least one accessible parking space. Upcoming improvements to the Park Activity Building will include upgrades to the parking lot for improved efficiency, capacity, and accessibility.

**Q: Will this project impact the existing open space, recreations fields, or sports courts?**

**A:** Norwood Local Park has approximately 17.5 acres of unprogrammed open space. The project will preserve unprogrammed space for the various activities that take place in the park. The dog park proposal, as presented, will not use any of existing recreational fields, courts, or the large area of unprogrammed open space near the lower parking lot. In addition, the open space throughout the center of the park under groves of large trees will be retained. All existing sports fields will continue to be available for activities.

**Q: Is it possible to have designated off-leash times in the park rather than a fenced dog area?**

**A:** Off-leash dog activity is currently prohibited by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Park Rules and Regulations for both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. This project would create fenced areas for off-leash dog exercise and play similar to

the size and type of facilities we provide in other dog parks. In addition, a designated dog park designed to withstand heavy use by dogs helps protect other areas of the park from damage.

**Q: What is the size of the proposed dog park in Norwood Local Park compared to other dog parks Montgomery Parks maintains?**

**A:** Approximate sizes are listed below:

- Norwood Local Park – (proposed) 18,000 square feet
- Ellsworth Urban Park – 20,000 square feet
- Dewey Local Park – 22,000 square feet
- Wheaton Regional Park – 25,000 square feet
- Cabin John Regional Park – 50,000 square feet
- Olney Manor Recreational Park – 42,000 square feet
- Black Hill Regional Park – 22,000 square feet
- Ridge Road Recreational Park – 22,000 square feet

**Q: What hours would the dog park be open?**

**A:** The park hours for Norwood Local Park are from sunrise to sunset and would not change.

**Q: Will the dog park be accessible to people with disabilities?**

**A:** Yes. The paved route to the proposed dog park from the parking area will be constructed to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility guidelines, and at least one accessible parking space will be added. Pathways within the dog park will also be accessible.

**Q: How much will the dog park cost?**

**A:** The estimated cost of this project is \$500,000, which is comparable to the cost of recently constructed dog park projects. The funding comes from Montgomery Parks' capital budget through our Urban Park Elements program, which provides funding each year for new dog parks, skate parks, and community gardens. Dog park amenities require careful planning and have specific construction requirements for sustainable maintenance.

**Q: What is the decision-making process?**

**A:** Montgomery Parks is currently gathering community input through Open Town Hall until January 14, 2020. Upon review of the survey results, comments from the community meeting on November 10, and individual correspondence, Parks staff and leadership will make a recommendation about how to proceed with the dog park proposal. We anticipate presenting the project to the Planning Board in the first quarter of 2021 for a final decision. There will be opportunity for the community to participate and provide additional input and testimony.

**Q: If the project moves forward, what is the timeline for design and construction?**

**A:** If the dog park project is approved, construction could begin in Spring/Summer 2022.

**Q: How can I get more information about the project?**

**A:** Visit the project web site for project information and updates: <https://mcp-events.org/norwooddogpark>. Montgomery Parks will also send project updates via email to anyone who has contacted us regarding the dog park project. You may also contact Christie Ciabotti, Project Manager, [Christie.Ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:Christie.Ciabotti@montgomeryparks.org) , 301-650-4365 with questions and comments.