

Dog Run Construction

Unfortunately, the department of Parks and Recreation was not able to meet its target date of opening the Dog run in September of 2008. Construction has begun on the project with the parking lot nearing completion and the clearing of the site complete. The department is currently installing drainage runs and fencing. A wetter than normal July and August along with unforeseen maintenance repairs in other park locations have pushed the anticipated completion date to April 30, 2009.

The parks department staff, with assistance from the highway department will be completing all work such as fence installation, concrete entrance area, gravel parking lot, utilities and drainage in house to help keep the project costs manageable for town residents and still provide a quality facility for dog owners. Doing projects in house does regretfully lengthen the time it takes to construct these new facilities, but it is supported by the Town Board and Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, as the department generally can cut project costs in half. Once complete, user fees will be utilized to offset the costs of operation and maintenance of the facility.

The Department of Parks and Recreation will be announcing in late winter the registration process. The fee for annual membership in the dog run is set at \$35 annually for New Hartford residents and \$70 for non-residents for single dogs, \$60.00 for multi-dogs (no more than 3) for residents and \$120 for non-residents. Seniors will receive a \$5 or \$10 discount depending on the number of dogs. The initial fee will be pro-rated, as the registrant will not be getting a full year the first year of operation. As part of your registration you will be given a pass card, which will allow you access to the park seven days a week. Applications will be available in the spring. All dog run users will be required to have a town pet tag, dog license tag, and rabies ID tag. The town pet tag will be provided with your park membership.

The dog run and recently completed splash pad are two projects being built by the department to help expand our offerings to the community while trying to keep the costs of these facilities as low as possible by using town forces to complete as many phases of construction as possible, and after completing them, implementing reasonable resident and non-resident fees to cover the cost of operation and maintenance.