



YOUR COVERAGE IS INVITED

WHAT: The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Large Dog Run (Phase 2) of the Hancock Hounds Dog Park. Due to overwhelming support and popularity the new dog park expanded to triple its size in less than 1-year after opening. This new dog park expansion was made possible with a generous grant from the George A. & Margaret Mee Charitable Foundation awarded in November 2022. The new section will open to the public officially on December 21st, 2022. Once open, the dog park will have two dog runs (both large and small). It will also feature a unique collapsible training corner that can also be used as a "holding pen" when a dog needs to adjust to the new environment for proper training and for educational sessions, this novel portion of the park is coming Spring 2023. As Hancock is famous for its coveted stone quarries, the dog park will also feature natural cuttings of traditional and lavender Bluestone, generously donated by Steve Zahler & family, which will form the new walkways and perimeters of the park. Stone will be installed in 2023. This will allow for proper landscaping, winter upkeep, and better handicap accessibility when the weather permits. Hancock Hounds also hopes to feature local artist installations such as: interior and exterior fencing artwork by local artists, photographers, and historic timelines of the town.

The exterior of the park will have unique dog-friendly ornamental grasses and selected vegetation for ease of landscaping that can assist with seasonal drainage. Hancock Hounds is pleased to have accepted help from Delaware County, who offered professional support from their Landscape Architect and Senior Planner, Sean Leddy. Thanks to Leddy's skilled advice and the support of the Delaware Valley Garden Club, the committee hopes to create a series of beautiful but modest ornamental gardens surrounding the park and a new community garden named after Alice Furfaro, Delaware Valley Garden Club(DVGC) President 2013-2021. A new bluestone bench in Furfaro's honor will be the central feature of the new community garden which begins construction in Spring 2023. This garden will also assist with standing water issues, and beautify the entire area.

WHO: Hancock Hounds Dog Park, Inc. 501(c)3 is proud to announce the opening of Phase 2 of the Hancock Hounds Dog Park (Large Dog Run) in Hancock New York. The two year old organization, which is an IRS approved 501c3 is classified as S20 NTEE community and neighborhood beautification charity.

WHERE: Hancock Town Hall at 661 W. Main Street in Hancock, New York - behind the main complex. Outdoor event, please dress for cold weather.

WHEN: Thursday December, 22nd, 2021 from 12-1PM - Hot Coffee & Cookies

12:00 PM Arrive on site for check-in and Press Packets

12:15 PM Jill Keller - Hancock Hounds Dog Park, Inc. Executive Director remarks

12:25 PM Richard Lowe - Hancock Partners, Inc. Director remarks

12:35 PM Jerry Vernold - Hancock Town Supervisor will give closing remarks

12:45 PM Press Photos with Hancock Hounds and local businesses (Ribbon Cutting)

HANCOCK HOUNDS DOG PARK EXPANDS PAWPRINT

New Large Dog Run Triples Space and Opens for the Holidays in Hancock

Hancock Hounds Dog Park(HHDP), a two year old New York State not-for-profit charitable corporation with an IRS approved 501c3 designation. HHDP is classified as an S20 NTEE community and neighborhood beautification charity. The dog park is built across 1.5 acres of flat land conveniently located behind the Hancock Town Hall at 661 W. Main Street in Hancock, New York. The land was made available by the Town of Hancock through a land license agreement which must be renewed annually. For years, the local community had sought ways to create this dog park but didn't have enough knowledge on the process to get it off the ground. As Covid-19 started to work its way across the country this need became more urgent, as dogs and their owners became more isolated. The Town of Hancock, and particularly the local Dog Control Officer, Donna Torch, continued to reach out for help and support. Finally, in the summer of 2021 she found a team of local residents, Jill Keller and Ashley Rossi, who became co-chairs of the Dog Park committee that quickly grew in numbers with Michael Fruchtmann as Treasurer & Richard Lowe as Secretary..

"The local residents of Hancock recognized the need for a dog park and Jerry Vernold, Town Supervisor and the Town Board listened and helped. The outpouring of community support for this venture has been incredible. We are forever grateful for the amazing people that have brought what was just an idea 18 months ago to life. Residents have donated their skills, equipment, and more than \$10k in their own money. The most valuable resource of all is their time on this great cause. I'm excited about Hancock's future and all those who will benefit from the dog park. This park means healthier animals, more social activities for the residents, increased business, and new job opportunities!" said Jill Keller - Executive Director, Hancock Hounds Dog Park.

Today the HHDP has more than 58 members supporting the build, and an Executive Board that is dedicated to bringing her vision to life. Jill Keller is the first Executive Director for HHDP and she, along with new Dog Park President Geraldine Walsh have put together a fast-moving team that in just 18 months has raised nearly ten thousand dollars to get the organization off the ground, and the first two phases of the dog park installed by the end of 2022. Both dog runs feature a double-gated entry which will provide the owner with the opportunity to unleash his or her dog in a safe and confined area, eliminating the danger of the dog getting loose outside of the park. This system also allows the dog to become acclimated to being off-leash prior to entering the main park, eliminating any potential "leash aggression" that may have occurred. Park rules will be posted and doubled sided so rules can be seen at entry as well as inside the dog park. All structures will be built to be non-permanent, but secured against theft or flood to allow the park to grow as needed.

"We are happy to announce that Phase 2 is nearly complete thanks to the generosity of the George A. & Margaret Mee Charitable Foundation, whose recent grant award made this possible," said Richard Lowe - Secretary & Design Director of Hancock Hounds Dog Park. *"We want to create a space for public enjoyment, but also for community events that can teach canine safety to our youth. I'm pleased to report that our 2022 Art Walk was a huge success for the community with more than 1.2k participants, which we hope to make Countywide for 2023 with our friends in Deposit, Walton, Cochester and Tompkins. Today the HHDP Committee is pleased to announce the plans for Phase 3, which is as a community*

garden named after Alice Furfaro the Delaware Valley Garden Club(DVGC) President from 2012-2021. The DVGC will assist in the design of the gardens with HHDP and the Delaware County Planning Office. This will be done to enhance but not harm the look of the natural landscape and give tourists, EV Charging guests and residents more places to learn about the town and enjoy the recreational park."

The final fully-realized dog park, to be completed in Fall/Winter 2023, which will feature a unique collapsible training corner that can also be used as a "holding pen" when a dog needs to adjust to the new environment for proper training and for educational sessions. As Hancock is famous for its coveted stone quarries, the dog park will also feature natural cuttings of traditional and Lavender Bluestone, generously donated by Steve Zahler & family, which will form the new walkways and perimeters of the park. This will allow for proper landscaping, winter upkeep, and better handicap accessibility when the weather permits. Hancock Hounds also hopes to feature local artist installations such as: interior and exterior fencing artwork by local artists, photographers, and historic timelines of the town. The exterior of the park will have unique dog-friendly ornamental grasses and selected vegetation for ease of landscaping that can assist with seasonal drainage. Hancock Hounds is pleased to have accepted help from Delaware County, who offered professional support from their Landscape Architect and Senior Planner, Sean Leddy. Thanks to Leddy's skilled advice and the support of the Delaware Valley Garden Club, the committee hopes to create a series of beautiful but modest ornamental gardens surrounding the park that will assist with standing water issues, and beautify the entire area, along with the community garden. These new gardens will also be accompanied by custom boxes which have already begun being installed throughout the town to bring a unified look to the entire village and town. The Hancock Partners, Hancock Area Chamber of Commerce and the Delaware Valley Garden Club are working to install these new boxes for local businesses in 2022-2023, and the Dog Park will serve as a showroom for local businesses to review their quality and craftsmanship.

The dog park will also play host to an exciting new neighbor, as Hancock's new Electric Vehicle(EV) Charging Station which was just completed by the Town of Hancock, NYPA and Tesla. The two will share a common space between them, Phase 3, which will become the new community garden. This area will allow new visitors the opportunity to stretch their legs in style and enjoy the scenic area. This will also serve as a unique regional opportunity for guests to walk their dogs, and to learn more about local businesses. Both the EV Station and Dog Park are already featured on automotive GPS location systems, accessible to motorists passing by on NYS Rt 17. These new out of county visitors will also be treated to new and improved information Kiosks, both digital and traditional in 2023-2024. This type of kiosk upgrade will also begin to emerge across the entire Village & Town thanks to the Hancock Partners, & the Hancock Area Chamber of Commerce. Their hard work and dedication to providing more signage, technology and advertising for local business will truly unify the town's heritage aesthetic and blend it seamlessly with modern additions giving tourists and guests up to date information on dining, entertainment and cultural points of interest.

To ensure animal welfare near the EV Charging Station and the Town Hall parking area, Hancock Hounds has posed a unique design task to famed local metal worker Vallessa Monk of Monk Designs, who owns and operates Troutbrook Studios in Hancock, New York. Monk has been asked by HHDP to design "Tesla Inspired" exterior picnic tables and sleek matching benches to serve as a safety barrier for the dogs and their owners, with large

natural bluestone serving as a natural barricade to prevent any accidents, and create a sense of community in both spaces. Once completed in 2023, they will be a stylish and modern addition to the park and serve as a gateway to learn more about our historic downtown and local businesses that will be adorned as graphic images on the exterior walls of the dog park. HHDP hopes to work with local education organizations such as Hancock Central School, Eagle Scouts, or the Hancock Community Education Foundation to continue fully realizing the dog park's long term needs of student painted murals, student created agility equipment, and experimental modern water features that could truly enhance the final park design.

"The Hancock Hounds Dog Park is a testament to Hancock's growth in recent years and how we value new ideas, and listen to our neighbors," said Jerry Vernold - Town Supervisor. "We are blown away by the public support and everyday use of the dog park. We had no idea how many people would use it everyday."

"Perhaps most importantly, the new dog park will also serve as a regional gateway for more canine awareness for causes specific to animal welfare, adoption services, public safety, as well as general physical and mental health," said Geraldine Walsh HHPD President. "As more people and their animals have been cut off from safely socializing, it remains important to create a safe space for dog owners to train and build trust with their dogs and other dogs in general. This will help establish trust and reduce territorial behavior of dogs here in Hancock."

ABOUT HANCOCK HOUNDS DOG PARK:

Hancock Hounds Dog Park is now a New York State Not-Profit Corporation operating under Hancock Hounds Dog Park, Inc. and is also an IRS approved 501(c)3 charitable organization for community beautification as an S20 NTEE. HHDP is a community based project actively raising funds to build a Phase 3 of the Public Dog Park behind the Hancock Town Hall at 661 West Main Street that will benefit the local community as well as provide much needed community resources, physical exercise, and mental stimulation for the local dogs. We now have a large and a small dog run open to the public and are seeking to build the "Community Garden. "For more information about Hancock Hounds Dog Park, Inc, please visit hancockhounds.com or email info@hancockhounds.com

Stay tuned for more information on the continued fundraising efforts on [GoFundMe](https://www.gofundme.com/c/hancock-hounds-dog-park) and follow HHDP on social media using the handle @HancockHoundsDogPark - Please remember Hancock Hounds Dog Park still needs your help and support to finish building the dog park. Please visit the official website at HancockHounds.com and learn how you can help today!

ALL MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Please Contact: Richard Lowe
info@hancockhounds.com

IMAGES OF THE DOG PARK & NEW NEIGHBORING TOWN EV CHARGING STATIONS:







