Hancock Art Walk *2024*
Information Sheet

YOUR COVERAGE IS INVITED

WHAT: 2024 Hancock Art Walk

WHO: Sponsored by the Hancock Hounds Dog Park (501c3), which is a New York State Not-for-profit Charitable Corporation in Hancock New York. Also sponsored and supported by Hancock Area Chamber of Commerce, The Campton's Art Gallery, Hancock Partners Inc (501c3), James Serio Real Estate, & Keller Williams Realty

WHERE: Walking Route is from The Campton's Art Gallery located at 158 E Front Street Hancock, NY 13783 to the Hancock Town Hall & Dog Park at 661 W. Main Street in Hancock, New York - dog park is located behind the main complex. Outdoor event, please dress for weather.

WHEN: All Day - Friday, May 25th 2024 thru October 2024 - WALKING EVENT

HANCOCK NEW YORK'S 3rd ANNUAL ART WALK

HANCOCK HOUNDS HIT THE STREETS TO SUPPORT THE ARTS

Hancock Area Chamber of Commerce and the Hounds Dog Park(HHDP) are pleased to announce the 3rd Annual **Hancock Art Walk** to launch on Memorial Day Weekend with local Celebrations and run through October, due to popular demand. This walk is about celebrating art in all forms, including sculpture, says Richard Lowe - Director of Economic Development for Hancock Partners, Inc. The 2024 **Hancock Art Walk** will host a *"I LOVE NY" theme* to coincide with the RIver, Road & Rail Art Trail and festivities along the *Upper Delaware Scenic Byway*. The Hancock Art Walk will begin near the entrance of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, at the The Campton's Art Gallery located at 158 E Front Street Hancock, NY 13783 and run down E Front Street, circle the Hancock Town Square and then continue west along Main Street until reaching the Town Hall & Dog Park at 661 West Main Street with local artists displayed in local shop windows, and prominently displayed along the route from one end of the village to the other, terminating at the location of new dog park. The Hancock Town Hall has kindly agreed to lend artists the use of their parking fence to hang and display art for the Art Walk, for the temporary display for the month of May. Sponsors and support generously provided by the Hancock Area Chamber of Commerce, The Campton's Art Gallery, Hancock Partners Inc (501c3), James Serio Real Estate, & Keller Williams Realty.

HHDP has been fortunate to have incredibly talented members and local artists, who have contributed to our marketing success. Some of the featured local artists include: Bill Westmoreland, Geraldine Walsh, Vallessa Monk, Laura & James McManus who own and operate The Campton's Art Gallery and whose work is prominently featured along the Art Walk route. Laura McManus received a coveted New York State Council on the Arts grant for $10k this year to make new artwork reflective of the four seasons along the Delaware River.

The 2024 art walk intends to serve as a significant attraction for travelers, homeowners, and passersby on the highway. The event's location will encourage people to get out and appreciate what the town has to offer. It will also demonstrate how we aim to incorporate arts and culture into all of our events which will not only stimulate the minds of those coming to the events, but will also make it look visually appealing from a distance encouraging future travel to Hancock and, in turn, Delaware county as a whole. Hancock Hounds Dog Park is a 501c3 New York State Not-for-profit Charitable Corporation. The now completed dog park s built across 1.5 acres of flat land conveniently located behind the Hancock Town Hall at 661 W. Main Street in Hancock, New York. With only work on the community gardens and walkways remaining.

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. Today the HHDP has more than 50 members supporting the build, and an Executive Board that is dedicated to bringing this vision to life.

The HHDP Committee is pleased to report that the dogs and their owners who enjoy the park the last two years have nothing but great stories to report, and enjoy the design of a welcoming, fenced-in, dog park that provides a community environment for dogs to exercise and socialize, without harming the look of the natural landscape. The double-gated entry provides 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 are clearly posted at the entrance as well as online. All structures will be built to be non-permanent, but secured against theft or flood to allow the park to grow as needed, and maximize donations for expansion.

The final fully-realized dog park, intended to be complete in Fall of 2025, will have two dog runs both large and small, and feature a shaded pavilion, community garden and pathways made of bluestone. 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.

The dog park also has an exciting new neighbor, as Hancock's new Electric Vehicle(EV) Charging Station celebrated it's first year of operations, with 9k cars and 12.5k people who utilized the station. Many of those users had dogs who were only too happy to see they had a spot of their own to enjoy. The two will share a common space between them, managed by HHDP allowing 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 featured as new amenities in Automotive GPS locator systems, accessible to motorists passing by. These types of new visitors will also be treated to a new and improved information Kiosk, both digital and traditional in Fall 2025. These upgrades will begin to emerge across the entire Town thanks to the Hancock Area Chamber of Commerce, & Hancock Partners who are actively working to test a new pilot program this coming summer. Their hard work and dedication to providing more signage, and local business exposure 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.

"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. "Today is a treat for the Town of Hancock's owners and their pets." 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. 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. Most public parks have leash laws and are not suitable for this type of relationship building, so it's critical to have a place to make these meaningful connections. HHDP also hopes to create a new Animal Shelter for Hancock and foster local adoption programs with other regional partners.

ABOUT HANCOCK HOUNDS DOG PARK:
Hancock Hounds Dog Park, Inc. is a NYS Not-for-Profit 501c3 Charitable Corporation, as an S20 NTEE community beautification category. The 1.5 acre community funded and managed dog park is always seeking new volunteers, public donations and support from the community. Stay tuned for more information on the continued fundraising efforts on GoFundMe and follow HHDP on social media using the handle @HancockHoundsDogPark - Please remember Hancock Hounds Dog Park still needs your help and support to manage it each year. Please visit the official website at HancockHounds.com and learn how you can help today!

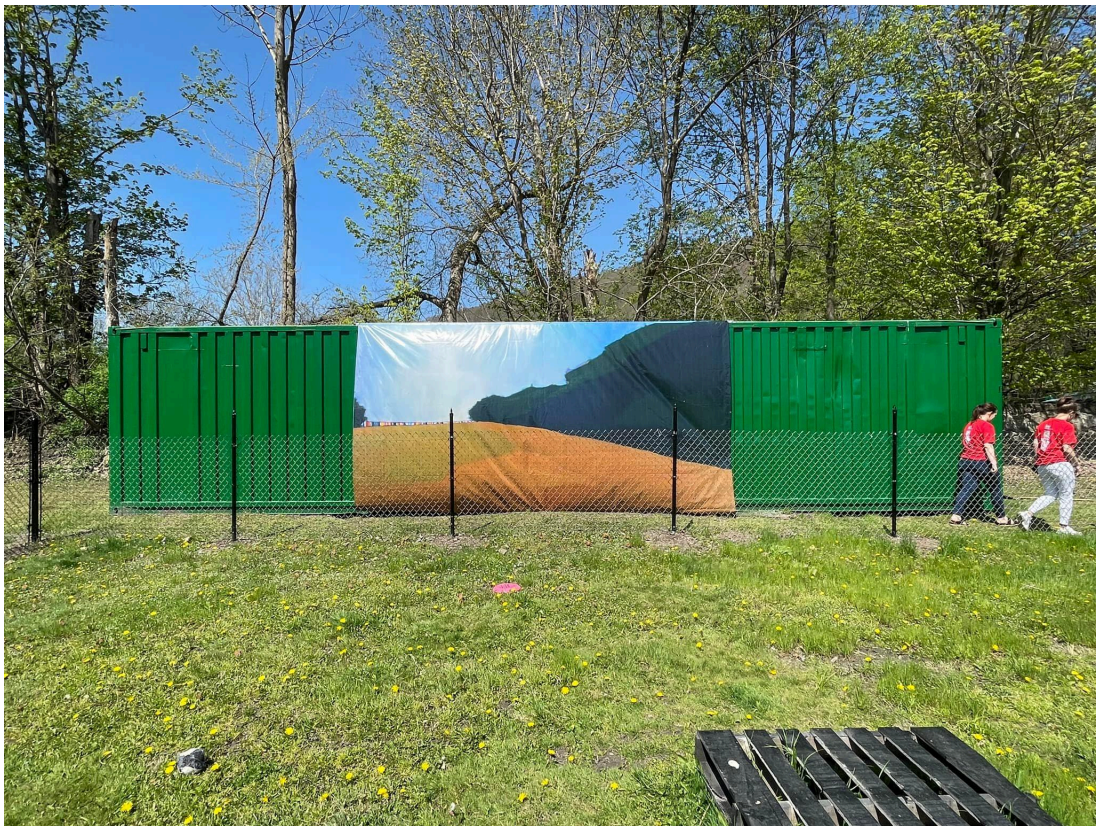
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