

Dedham temporary dog park to stay open in new location

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Wicked Local Staff photo by Erin Prawoko

Lauren Levine, a dog walker for Regal Beagle in Needham, uses the temporary dog park at Dolan Recreation Center.



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“This is very much a needed area in the town,” said Judy Stavis of Dedham, who wa the park on Wednesday, Aug. 29. “It’s sad we have to close it because of one group people who don’t like it,” she added, referring to the SMA Fathers.

Video



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DelloIacono said there was a lot of misunderstanding of the SMA Fathers, who coo with the Parks and Recreation Commission to allow the park to continue to stay ope six more months.

Hours were limited following the extension, but that was in response to a lack of pa during softball games at the Dolan Center, DelloIacono said.

“People thought it was the priest making those decisions, but it wasn’t; it was good communication between us and the SMA Fathers,” DelloIacono said.

The idea of a dog park has only become more popular through the temporary dog p with even people from out of town coming to visit.

“I’ve been coming to the park since last November and I just love it; it’s great to meet people,” said dog park u Kentros of Needham.

“Your dog can’t run away in the street and won’t get lost because it’s all fenced in,” said Maeve Lyon, also of N

John Lydon of Dedham said he uses the park every day. He said he likes the location and lamented the fact it closing before he knew the park would reopen nearby.

As far as the permanent facility, slated to open in **a year at the earliest** at 450 Sprague St., he said he likes t better, in part for its simplicity.

“Why do they need engineers and everything else to put up a dog park?” he said.

Richard Shanler said he uses the dog park three or four times per week, and goes to nearby Wilson Mountain Reservation, as well.

The **temporary dog park** in Dedham will continue, moving to a different field at t Dolan Center on Common Street.

Dedham Parks and Recreation Commission met on Thursday, Aug. 30, and unanim approved the new location, allaying concerns of dog owners that they would be left a place to bring their pups.

Chuck DelloIacono, the member of the commission who **spearheaded the effort** the park open, said the new park would be very similar to the old.

“The fence will come down and that fence will also be used at the new temporary do DelloIacono said Thursday.

DelloIacono said he was proud of the nine months the park was open and said there **relatively few problems**.

The dog park opened in late fall of 2011 and **immediately achieved popularity**. Originally intended to be open three months, DelloIacono and other members of th and Recreation Commission petitioned selectmen to keep it open another year whil more permanent facility could be constructed.

Opposition from members of the **Society of African Mission Fathers**, located the dog park, led selectmen to **grant an extension** of only six months.

Before Thursday’s announcement, dog owners were upset at the park’s impending and many blamed the SMA Fathers that it was taking place.

“My dog does not like walking on a leash along the sidewalks of downtown Dedham or Needham or wherever I’m going to,” Shanler said.

The new site will be in front of the building. It opened on Tuesday.

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