



# LOWER MACUNGIE DOG PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PREPARED BY:

The Friends of Lower Macungie Dog Park Committee

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## INTRODUCTION

Lower Macungie Township offers a wide array of recreational facilities and activities for adults and children. The Friends of Lower Macungie Dog Park propose to expand our facilities to include a Dog Park. According to published data <sup>(1)</sup>, as of 2010, the population of Lower Macungie Township was 32,994 representing 12,375 households. Using national statistics, at least 37% of all households have at least one dog, with an average of 1.6 dogs per household <sup>(2)</sup>. Conservatively, this means there are approximately 7,300 dogs in the township.

Lower Macungie Township currently operates 9 community parks, 14 neighborhood parks and 3 mini-parks, all offering a variety of amenities for resident adults and children. The township does not currently have a dog park.

**Why a Dog Park?** Dog Parks are truly a multigenerational park activity for all ages. They offer a place for recreation both for dogs and their owners, improve dog owner responsibility, decrease inappropriate pet behavior and enhance the utilization of our park system.

Exercised Dog = Happy Dog  
Happy Dog = Happy Owner

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of Lower Macungie Dog Park is all-volunteer group committed to bringing a Dog Park to Lower Macungie Township where dogs and their owners can play in a clean, safe and fun environment.

## GOALS

- ❖ To establish and build a fenced in, off-leash dog park in Lower Macungie Township where well-behaved canines, their owners and friends can exercise in a clean, safe and fun environment. Target completion: 2016
- ❖ To raise the funds needed to help create a community Dog Park so as to minimize the financial burden on the community.
- ❖ To provide an environment allowing recreation, community interaction, and education for residents and their pets while promoting responsible dog ownership within our community.

## BACKGROUND AND ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

The concept of bringing a Dog Park to Lower Macungie Township began in 2009 supported by individuals and ad-hoc discussions. A Facebook group, Support a Dog Park in Lower Macungie was established and a fund-raising event was held. The Lower Macungie Township Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan, adopted in June 2014 recommended that a dog park be constructed at Camp Olympic. A dog park has been a part of the Parks and Recreation Boards five-year plan for the past three years.

Meanwhile, a Camp Olympic Master Site Plan was approved in July 2010 with initial phases consisting of community gardens, new park entry, parking and restroom upgrades for the lower park completed in 2014.

With support from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), a project to add an eco playground and bike park was approved in 2014 at a total cost of \$385,000, and work is currently in progress.

In April 2015, an application<sup>(3)</sup> was submitted for grant funds from the DCNR to upgrade the Upper Barn at Camp Olympic and to construct a Dog Park there. Total project cost was estimated at \$215,000, with \$107,500 requested from the DCNR with an equal match by the township. Dog Park costs were estimated at approximately \$80,590.

With the rejuvenation of the Dog Park vision, community leadership was sought to work with the Parks and Recreation Committee to bring ideas and financial support to the Dog Park.

The Friends of Lower Macungie Dog Park committee was established in April 2015. Since forming, a website was created, [www.lowermacungiedogpark.com](http://www.lowermacungiedogpark.com). The committee has also obtained more than 150 signatures in support of a matching PA state grant to provided funding to defray the costs of the Dog Park, has participated in the Lower Macungie Township Community Day event in May, and has solicited ideas, input and support from the community. The committee has also begun organizing fundraising events. The committee also gets support from both the LMT Parks and Recreation Committee and the Board of Commissioners.

The Friends of Lower Macungie Dog Park is currently a group, not an organization.

The Committee met with the Lower Macungie Budget and Finance Committee to discuss using the township's 501c3 tax-deductible designation to raise funds to build the dog park. In June, LMT Board of Commissioners approved a motion to allow donations to be made to the Township, earmarked solely for the dog park.

All donations made for the dog park are considered tax-deductible under the Township's 501c3 charitable organization designation.

## LOCATION

The proposed location of the Lower Macungie Dog Park is at Camp Olympic Park located off of Cedar Crest Boulevard.



Camp Olympic Park is currently undergoing a \$350,000 renovation/expansion including the addition of a Pump Park and Eco-Playground.

Existing Use – The potential site for the Dog Park is currently a combination of a grassy area and small garden plots being used by the Council of Churches to grow produce for disadvantaged citizens. The site is slightly sloped, with 2 or 3 existing shade trees. A barrier tree line between the site and the PA Turnpike provides both visual and noise abatement.



Existing Site Usage

## DESIGN

The Lower Macungie Dog Park will initially be designed for a total of 2 acres, with the possible expansion to 3 acres. Detailed design considerations are still in progress, however the following basic features will be achieved:

- ❖ ADA Accessible
- ❖ 1.5 Acres for Large Dogs
- ❖ 0.5 Acres for Small Dogs
- ❖ 5' min high galvanized chain link fence around perimeter and separating the large dog and small areas
- ❖ Dual Gates for owner/pet entry
- ❖ Maintenance Gates for grass mowing
- ❖ General Trash Receptacles
- ❖ Shade Trees
- ❖ Signage

The recommended surface will be a very wear and drought tolerant grass, possibly a fall fescue, turf-type cultivar.

Rotation of play areas can be accomplished by adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> acre so that the grass can rest.

The parking lot installed as part of the Camp Olympic renovation project is located near the dog park, with sufficient parking spaces, such that a specific parking lot for the dog park is not required. An ADA compliant walkway will be installed from the parking lot to the dog park entrance.

Amenities will include Mitt Stations for dog waste, general trash receptacles, shade trees, benches, signage, water fountains, and agility equipment. The plan for these items is to be funded through donations and sponsorships.

Refer to Appendix A for further conceptual design and layout drawings.

**COST**

Listed below are preliminary cost estimates based on a 2-phase construction of the dog park. Phase 1 costs are estimated to be \$89,381. Phase 2 is estimated at \$30,181.

Fencing cost figures are based on a calculated 2,440 lineal feet of fence in phase 1 and 750 lineal feet of fence in phase 2. Through further work with a design firm, and with the Township, these costs will be optimized.

**Phase 1** - 2 acres total; 1.5 acres for Large Park, 0.5 acres for Small Park, 5' Chain Link Galvanized Fence, Pedestrian Gates, Maintenance Gates, Seeding, Mitt Stations, Benches, Shade Trees, Agility Equipment, Paved Walkway, Water Fountain

Fencing	\$54,100	DCNR Application, 2,440 lf
Pedestrian and Maintenance Gates	\$2,080	DCNR, 4 X 4' Wide, 2 X 12' Wide
Entrance Paving/ADA Access	\$3,000	Allowance Path from Parking Lot
Engineering/Survey Costs	\$3,410	DCNR, 1/2, shared with Barn Costs
Seeding/Grading/Mulching	\$12,000	DCNR
Mutt Mitt System, sign post, bags	\$591	Qty 2, Dog-on-it-pets
General Signs	\$200	Allowance
Trees	\$3,000	Allowance
Trash Receptacles	\$400	Allowance
Water Line	\$1,750	DCNR, 50% share with playground
Dog Fountain	\$2,250	DCNR, 50% share with playground
Benches	\$2,400	6 @ \$400 (Doylestown)
Agility Equipment	\$4,200	6 @ \$700 avg, Dog-on-it-Pets
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$89,381</b>	

Notes: No costs for electricity or an electronic access system are included. See Safety section for more details.

Fence - 2,440 lf of galvanized chain-link fence, 6' height, with bottom rail, 7-gauge coil wire spring bottom rail (to prevent burrowing/escaping).

Pedestrian and Maintenance Gates – Each dog area will have double entrance gates to prevent pets from escaping. Each area will also have a maintenance gate for lawn mowing equipment access.

Entrance Paving/ADA Access – An allowance for a walkway between the parking lot and dog park entrance. Further details will be obtained after discussions with Township Planning Director and Engineer. Consideration will be given for ADA access. Possibly tie entrance to fund-raising with in-memoriam pavers.

Engineering and Survey Costs – Costs to develop the detail design and plans for construction as well as for survey and layout, 50% cost-share with barn renovations.

Seeding/Grading/Mulching – An allowance to seed any bare or disturbed areas. Input was sought from Penn State University’s Turf Management Chair, who recommended tall fescue, turf-type cultivar, seed rate, 6-8 lbs/s.f. This type of turf is drought resistant and does not require much fertilizer.

Mutt Mitt System, Sign Post and Bags – Receptacles for each dog park area for dog waste, plus an initial purchase of 1,200 bags. Costs obtained from [www.dog-on-it-parks.com](http://www.dog-on-it-parks.com)

General Signs – Signs defining rules of usage, hours of operation, etc. Examples:



Trees – An allowance for 15 trees at a cost of \$200 per tree. The Committee will contact LMT and Environmental Advisory Council to see if some trees can be donated. There are a few existing trees on site that will be maintained.

Trash Receptacles – An allowance for 2 trash receptacles with regular pick up.

Water Line – Extension of water line to serve dog park, joggers and playground area, 50% cost share with playground

Combination Drinking Fountain – Combination fountain for dogs and people, 50% cost share with playground. Parks without dog fountains typically fall back on well-intentioned owners bringing in water bowls, but if left unchecked can be unsanitary and create a breeding ground for mosquitos and undesirable germs.



Sample Combination Fountain

Benches – An allowance for 6 benches to be located in each section and near the entrance.

Agility Equipment – An allowance for a total of 6 agility stations, 3 each in the large and small dog areas. Specific equipment will be determined by input from residents and users. Some examples:



Phase 2 - 1 acre recovery area, shade pavilion, mitt station, trees		
Fencing	\$15,000	750 lf @ \$20/lf
Pedestrian and Maintenance Gate	\$1,000	Allowance
Seeding	\$1,500	Allowance
Mutt Mitt System, sign post, bags	\$261	Qty. 1, Dog-on-it-pets
General Signs	\$100	Allowance
Trees	\$1,000	Allowance
Trash Receptacles	\$200	Allowance
Shade Pavilion	\$8,000	Allowance
Second Dog Fountain	\$2,320	Qty. 1, Dog-on-it-pets
Benches	\$800	2 @ \$400 (Doylestown)
Agility Equipment		Relocate from main areas
Total	\$30,181	

Pavilion – An allowance for a permanent structure pavilion to be located at or near the dog park entrance to provide shade and a socialization area.

Phase 1 Cost Share:

DCNR Grant:	\$37,795
LMT Match:	\$37,795
Fundraising:	\$13,791
Total	\$89,381

Phase 2 Cost Share: TBD, timing a function of funding availability

## SCHEDULE

The goal is to complete construction of the Lower Macungie Dog Park by the Fall of 2016. DCNR grant funding and contracting, as well as construction phasing, primarily the establishment of a good turf base will be the key determinant as to when the park can be opened. If seeding can be established early enough in 2016, it is possible that the park can also open in the Fall, however a Spring 2017, is a more likely opening date. The following is a rough timeline of key activities to support this goal:

DCNR Grant Application Submittal	16 April 2015 (COMPLETE)
LMT Budget Request	September 2015
Budget Review	September – October 2015
Budget Approved	December 2015
DCNR Grant Approval	December 2015

Design Start	January 2016
Construction Permit Application	January 2016
DCNR Grant Contract Completion	May 2016
Fencing Contract Bid and Award	May 2016
Construction Start	May 2016
Construction Complete	July 2016
Seeding and Landscaping	July 2016
Install Signage, Agility Equipment, etc	Aug 2016
Park Opening	October 2016 – Spring 2017

Park opening is dependent upon grass surface being sufficiently developed so as not to be damaged upon opening.

## SAFETY

In planning the Dog Park, there are many things to be considered for the safety and enjoyment of the park by pets and their owners. Details are still being developed and all considerations will need to be discussed and agreed upon between the Committee, the community-at-large and the Township.

Access – Among existing dog parks, access control ranges from sophisticated card readers to simply opening a gate. The current plan does not include costs to run electricity to the dog park, or to include access readers. While good for control, access readers can be problematic (e.g. not reliable and keeping well-intentioned owners from accessing the park) and expensive. None of the other existing parks in the township have this type of access control. The current plan includes signage with hours of operation and rules of the park.

Registration – The Committee is working on guidelines and rules for registering pets. For the safety of all users, it is felt that pets should be registered so that vaccination and

licensing can be verified. A liability waiver should also be considered. A nominal membership fee could be charged to help defray on-going maintenance costs, waived in the case of hardship.

Security – The Committee will work with the township to define means to keep the park safe from vandalism or other damage. Currently there are no camera or alarm systems.

Rules – All dog parks have a list of rules governing owner and dog behavior. Examples include prohibiting aggressive dogs from entering the park, rules for infants and small children, cleaning up dog waste, minimum age for puppies, etc. Rules will be developed and agreed to prior to opening the park.

Hours of Operation – Use of the dog park will be limited from dusk to dawn.

Watch/Site Observation – Users will be encouraged to report any unwanted behavior.

Education – The Committee will develop a brochure that can be posted on its website, along with hard copies being available at the park with guidelines for proper pet etiquette, getting the most enjoyment out of the park, dealing with aggressive dogs or owners, etc.

Leash Laws – The Township will need to amend the leash laws to allow dogs in the park to be legally off leash.

### **Operations and Maintenance**

The Township will manage on-going operation of the dog park. Consideration will be given to a fee-based registration process to defray operations cost consisting mainly of lawn mowing, mutt-mitt bags and trash removal.

In addition, previous partnerships with local Boy Scout troops will continue with opportunities for Eagle Scout projects (trees, additional benches, signs, beatification, etc.)

## FUNDRAISING PLAN

The Committee is currently developing a comprehensive fundraising plan. Components of the plan include:

- ❖ Grant Application and matching PA State Funds
- ❖ Events
- ❖ Individual Donations
- ❖ Business Support
- ❖ Naming and Recognition Opportunities

Grant Application and matching PA State Funds – An application for a DCNR grant, totaling \$107,500 for the Dog Park and upgrades to an existing barn at Camp Olympic was submitted in April 2016. If approved, approximately \$37,795 would be earmarked for the dog park construction.

Events – Examples include a Pet Paint Party, “Yappy Hour, Outdoor Dog Socials, Tee Shirt sales, a Dog Walk, etc. See Appendix B for more examples.

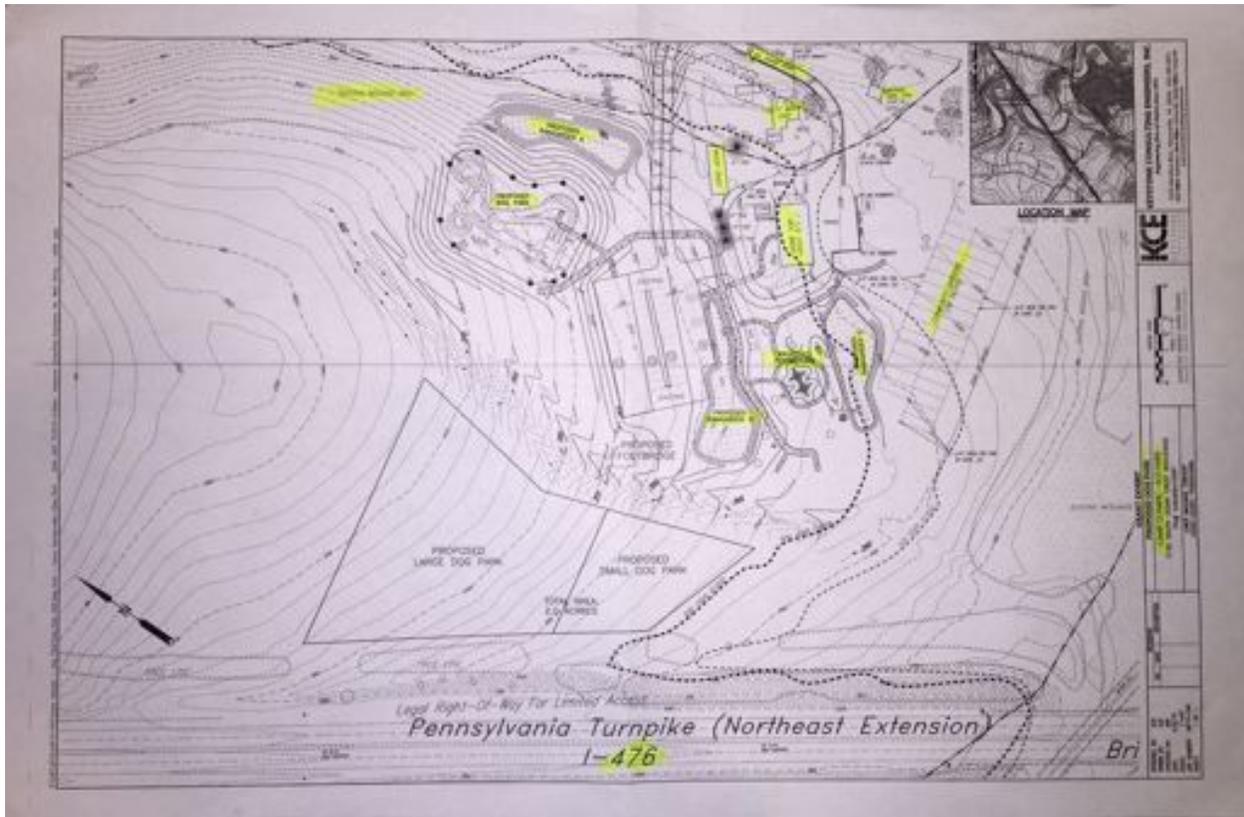
Individual Donations – Individuals wishing to make donations may make a tax-deductible contribution to Lower Macungie Township, earmarked Lower Macungie Dog Park.

Business Support – Contact with local and national businesses has already started. A contact was made with a local pet store business coming into the Shops and Hamilton Crossing. Also a national realtor association offers grants for community improvement projects. In addition, numerous pet-related businesses, such as pet stores, groomers, animal hospitals, etc. will be solicited for donations, and/or proceeds from sales. Advertising opportunities may exist, dependent upon the Township’s rules.

Naming and Recognition Opportunities – A list of possible naming opportunities is listed in Appendix C.

**APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX A – CONCEPTUAL DESIGN**



Proposed Dog Park at Camp Olympic

Other conceptual designs and drawings to be added when complete.

## APPENDIX B – FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- ❖ Paint Party – 7:00 p.m. 21 August 2015, Paint, Emmaus, PA
- ❖ Yappy Hour
- ❖ Outdoor Dog Socials
- ❖ Basket Bingo
- ❖ Silent Auction
- ❖ Winery Visit
- ❖ Tee Shirt Sales
- ❖ Band Concert/Party
- ❖ Dog Walk

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**APPENDIX C – NAMING/RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES**

(Specific giving levels to be discussed and agreed upon.)

Donation Item	Gift Amount
Fence	
Large Dog Area	
Small Dog Area	
Doggy Water Fountains	
Benches	
Pavers/Bricks	
Trees	
Shade Pavilion	
Mutt Mitt Stations/Bags	

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## REFERENCES

- (1) Demographic Profile – Lower Macungie Library, 2012
- (2) AVMA, 2012 Pet Ownership Statistics
- (3) DCNR Grant Application, Sara Pandl, 16 April 2016

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