

R-17-14

SUPPORTING A COUNTY FUNDED DOG PARK IN NORTHERN WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Introduced by Alderman Taylor

WHEREAS, dog parks bring benefits not only to dogs and their owners, but also to entire communities by promoting responsible dog ownership and creating bonds among park users and other dog lovers; and,

WHEREAS, dog parks are increasing in popularity around the country; and,

WHEREAS, there are nearly 1000 licensed dogs in the City of Menasha; and,

WHEREAS, there has been considerable citizen interest in establishing a dog park in Northern Winnebago County; and,

WHEREAS, Winnebago County owns and operates a dog park in the Southern part of the county and it is expected that Winnebago County would operate the Northern facility in the same manner without financial or operational assistance from the City of Menasha; and,

WHEREAS, one-third of the population of Winnebago County lives in the northern portion of the county without convenient access to the current facility even though they provide a major portion of the tax base that funds the current park; and,

WHEREAS, the Friends of Winnebago County Dog Parks has identified an available site in the Town of Neenah which would effectively serve the Northern population of Winnebago County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Menasha Common Council offers its moral support to the citizen effort to establish a dog park in Northern Winnebago County owned and operated by the County.

Passed and approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.

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Donald Merkes, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah A. Galeazzi, City Clerk



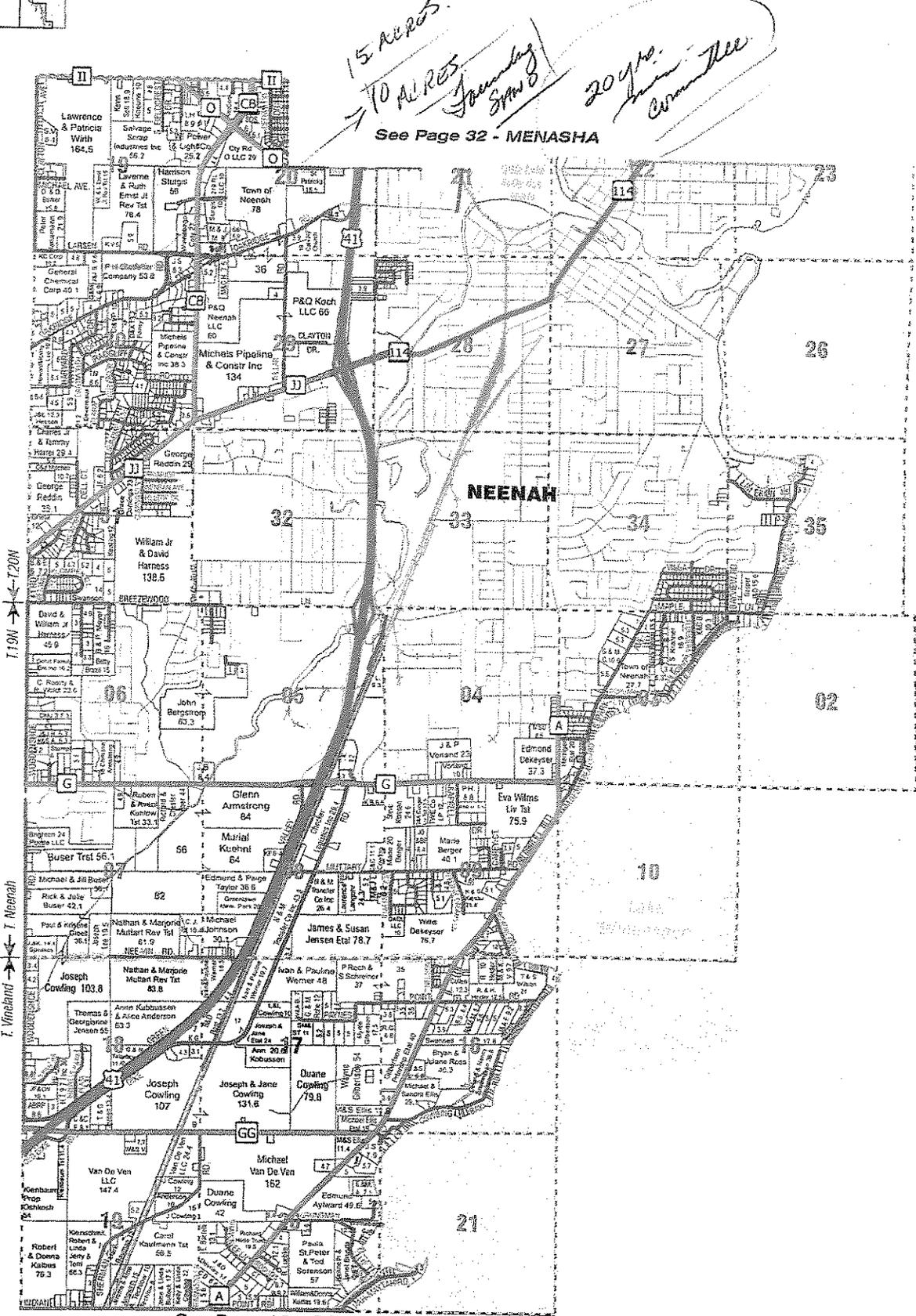
# Neenah and Vinland (E)

## T.19N.-20N. - R.17E.



8500  
8700  
7700  
6700  
5700  
4700  
3700  
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1700  
700

See Page 22 - VINLAND (W) | See Page 30 - CLAYTON



2500 2100 1700 1300 900



# ABOUT

Hundreds of Winnebago County Dog Parks, Inc.

## MISSION

Friends of Winnebago County Dog Parks, Inc. (FWCDP) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization dedicated to maintaining, improving and establishing off-leash dog parks in Winnebago County, Wisconsin.

## VISION

Our goal is to serve the community's need for public areas where responsible pet owners may safely exercise their socialized canine citizens off-leash and in accordance with applicable laws and ordinances. This includes lending support to the maintenance and improvement of Winnebago County Best Friends Dog Park in Oshkosh, as well as the establishment of additional off-leash dog parks in Winnebago County.

FWCDP encourages community involvement and welcomes new members.

Winnebago County Dog Park is located in the northeast corner of Winnebago County Community Park off County Rd Y, Oshkosh WI



Dog Park

# ETIQUETTE

- ALWAYS clean up after your dog.
- Be present with your dog at all times.
- Keep your dog leashed until it is inside the park.
- Have your dog under voice control or have it leashed.
- Do not bring aggressive dogs in to the park.
- Have your dog licensed.
- Have proof of your dog's current rabies vaccination.
- If your dog is "in season" please do not bring her into the park.
- If your pet is "unaltered" please keep an extra eye on them.
- Keep children at your side and within reach.

## Contact us:

Phone: 920.267.7801  
Email: [info@winnebagocountydogparks.com](mailto:info@winnebagocountydogparks.com)  
[www.winnebagocountydogparks.com](http://www.winnebagocountydogparks.com)

# DONATION & MEMBERSHIP

Sign-up Form

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Newsletter/Mailing List

Contact Me

Method of payment for Donation

Check

Credit

Cash

Name as it appears on card

Card number

Expiration date

Security code

we need your  
**HELP**

Currently, Best Friends Dog Park in Winnebago County Community Park, Oshkosh is the only public area for dogs to be off-leash with their owners in Winnebago County. Community spaces for our pets to exercise and play are limited; Winnebago County Park budgets have been reduced, which has created a twofold mission:

Our first directive is Winnebago County Best Friends Dog Park. In partnership with the Winnebago County Parks Department, we support efforts to improve and maintain the park.

Secondly, to relieve the stress on the current park, an additional off-leash dog park(s) needs to be established. Northern Winnebago County near Neenah and Menasha has been identified as a suitable area for an additional dog park. We are well underway in searching for land. Your donations will help with the purchase and building of a new off-leash Dog Park.

Working hand-in-hand with the community we can accomplish our goals!



Friends of Winnebago County  
**DOG PARKS**  
501 E County Rd Y, Oshkosh WI  
phone: 920.276.7801 **OPEN** 7am - 11pm  
www.winnebagoountydogparks.com

**MAIL TO:**  
Friends of Winnebago County Dog Parks, Inc  
469 Old Oregon Rd  
Oshkosh, WI 54902  
Phone: 920.267.7801  
Email: info@winnebagoountydogparks.com

## **Donation of Winnebago County land sought for New Dog Park**

After years of attempting to secure land for an additional dog park in Winnebago County in response to an ever growing need, an Exploratory Sub Committee (E.S.C.), led by Neenah residents Kathy Casperson, Sandy LeMoine, and Lori Baldauf, for Friends of Winnebago County Dog Parks, Inc. is turning to the public for help!

The overuse of the popular dog parks in south Winnebago and Outagamie Counties and their significant increase in usage underscores the need for an additional park situated somewhere between those parks. Over 100,000 visitors and their canine friends visited the smaller dog park last year.

Giving our dogs a place to exercise and socialize makes them happier, healthier, and usually better behaved. Owners also benefit from the exercise, and many do not have enough yard space to accommodate their dogs' daily activity needs. Walks help, but the freedom a fenced-in dog park offers is hard to match.

The major hurdle: **Winnebago County does not have the funds to procure the 10 – 15 minimum acreage through purchase or lease.** After land is approved and secured, at least an additional \$100,000 will be needed to get the park up and running. Volunteers will be utilized to manage the park. A possible fee structure could be considered to help with future expenses.

To date, over 20 possible land sites have been visited without a viable solution. We now turn to the public and hope for a giving individual or organization to make a land donation or donate financially to provide an avenue for purchasing or leasing property.

Dog parks are used daily and year round and visited at a higher rate than local recreational parks. **The need is there.** Similar to the recent donation of a local golf course, citizens can make a substantial positive impact on our community, both humanely and financially for the surrounding area.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in a donation of property or funding for the new Winnebago County Dog Park, please contact **Kathy Casperson, Chairperson of the Exploratory Sub Committee for the Friends of Winnebago County Dog Parks (920-727-4536)** or **Lori Baldauf, Secretary to the E.S.C., (920-306-1170)**



## Group makes plea for new Winnebago County dog park

Written by Holly Meyer Post-Crescent Media

May 31

postcrescent.com

### How to donate

If you have property or money

to donate for a new Winnebago County Dog Park, contact Kathy Casperson at 920-727-4536 or Lori Baldauf at 920-306-1170.

Supporters of a longstanding effort to bring another dog park to the Fox Cities are looking for help from the community.

The group Friends of Winnebago County Dog Parks is making a public appeal to anyone who could donate land or money to buy or lease at least 10 acres in northern Winnebago County, said Kathy Casperson, chair of a newly formed exploratory subcommittee.

"Some people think there's a (dog) park that's going to happen, and there isn't. And, we have zero funds to get this off the ground and unless we can actually get a donation of land or a donation in monetary form to either purchase or lease land, this is not going to happen," Casperson said.

For more than a decade, the group and the county have tried to find a spot for a second park, preferably between the Outagamie County dog park in Grand Chute and the Winnebago County dog park in Oshkosh. They've looked at more than 20 sites, but nothing has worked out.

"They're overflowing with visitors and so people have been saying, 'Hey, we need another park to balance out the population that's attending,'" Casperson said. "We're trying to find a site, if possible, between the two."

While the park would be incorporated into the county's park system

, Winnebago County doesn't have the money to purchase or lease land, said Rob Way, Winnebago County Parks director.

"With the limited amount of funding that could go into this, it's not an easy

task to come across properties that are going to be more or less donated and fit the bill for what a dog park needs to consist of," Way said.

The park needs to be at least 10 acres and fairly clear of wetlands, he said.

In 2000, the county formed a committee that spent about a year looking for a dog park location. It examined about 15 properties with no success

, Way said.

Since then, a second dog park has been on the department's project list and staff members periodically evaluate sites. Way said the staff is now looking at a potential

undisclosed location.

The new eight-person subcommittee was created after a recent community forum on the topic, and is made up of Neenah and Town of Menasha residents. Casperson said attendees spoke up with new suggestions for securing land that hadn't previously been tried.

In addition to better marketing

the project, the subcommittee will revisit the top three previously examined properties to see if they are now viable options, Casperson said.

If the subcommittee finds a site, it will notify the parks department, which would then discuss the matter with the property owner, Way said.

With the project's history, subcommittee members are realistic. They've given themselves six months to get something rolling and an additional six months if they find some momentum, Casperson said.

— Holly Meyer: 920-993-1000, ext. 426, or [hmeyer@postcrescent.com](mailto:hmeyer@postcrescent.com); on Twitter [@HollyAMeyer](https://twitter.com/HollyAMeyer)

