

FY-2020 Groveland Community Preservation Act

Dog Park Project

For

Groveland Community Preservation Committee

February 3rd, 2020

Submitted by Dog Park Committee

Community Preservation Proposal: New Dog Park in Groveland

Applicant Information

- Name of Applicant: Groveland Dog Park Committee
- Name of Co-Applicant: (if applicable) N/A
- Contact Name: Jason Naves
- Mailing Address: 150 Main Street
- City: Groveland
- State: MA
- Zip Code: 01834
- Daytime Phone: 508-982-6370
- Email Address: jason.naves@att.net

Location of Project

- Name of Project: New Dog Park in Groveland (Pending name: "Unleashed")
- Address of Project (or assessor's parcel id): In the Pines Rec area between the cell tower and the well

Funding Information

- CPA Category (Include all that apply):
 - Open space
 - Recreation

Project Cost

- CPA Funding Requested: \$25,000
- Total Cost of Proposed Project: \$250,000

Project Information

Please include answers to the following questions in a narrative format. Applications will be returned if the requested information is not provided. Please include supporting materials as necessary.

- Description

- Give a description of the project in a brief narrative (50 words or less.)

- This project will establish and maintain a dog park where well-behaved canines can exercise in a clean, safe environment without disturbing people, property or wildlife. This is a community project, open to all, in partnership with the Town of Groveland, designed to satisfy dog-owners and non-dog owners alike.

- Goals

- What are the goals of the proposed project?

- The goals for this dog park surpass simply creating a fenced-in space for local dogs to play freely. While we do plan to build a recreational fenced-in space that provides a clean, safe location for people and their dogs to gather, we also want to use this opportunity to create more than just a dog park. We plan to include a rental area for use by trainers and different dog groups, resources like banner areas for local business promotion, and capability for hosting large annual events. Building this dog park is about building a community space that can be a resource to both the dog community and those interested in outdoor recreational space for events. The establishment of a community rental area is also one of the numerous ways we plan to provide a steady income to help maintain the park throughout the year. We hope that this dog park will enhance the Town of Groveland by providing a dog park that promotes cleanliness, safety, and overall respect. The current dog park community from Groveland and from the neighboring towns is a strong community, filled with people who have already spent time and energy investing in the

dog park at Pines Recreational area. This community is very enthused about the prospect of creating a better space both for their dogs, and for enhancing community engagement opportunities.

o Who will benefit and why?

■ The Groveland community and beyond will benefit from this dog park in a variety of ways. Not only do dog parks encourage community socialization, but they also contribute to societal safety, mental and physical health, pride in one's town, tourism, local business promotion, and general education all working towards the enhancement of community life.

Dog parks act as a gathering spot for pet parents. They bring their pets to the park to get exercise and socialize with other pets, and dog owners do the same thing. While the dogs are playing, community members are more likely to form relationships, participate in conversation and exchange community information such as events, doctors, and veterinarians. These conversations can increase community spirit and pride in one's town, while contributing to a more active community. It also provides that space for owners to learn about dogs through observation and provides the opportunity to learn from more experienced owners and for well-mannered-dog advocates to demonstrate how they turned their dog into a well-mannered dog.

As leash laws continue to become increasingly restrictive, many community public leadership committees are seeing dog parks as a positive way to let dogs run free, while also promoting safety because pet owners are not walking on busy streets. Public canine parks allow dogs to

get ample off-leash exercise and social activity with other animals. When dogs get adequate physical and mental exercise they need, humans are able to notice a decrease in the level of troublesome behavior from their dogs, which positively benefits society.

Animals can add love and companionship to a household and family, which can help to reduce stress. What's more, owning a dog may keep you in better physical shape simply through daily dog walking. In fact, when you walk your dog you are meeting the government's recommendation for daily physical activity. Studies have shown that pet owners in general have lower cholesterol and lower blood pressure than non-pet owners. With a dog park, encouraging and promoting healthy dog ownership, you'll have healthier pets and people to improve the quality of life in your town or neighborhood

The extensive dog park community is tight-knit and many conversations are had over which dog parks in which towns are the best. When dog owners find a great dog park, they will travel to it. This dog park has the potential to draw more out of town visitors who are looking for great parks and communities to spend their time in. At this park, local businesses, will have the opportunity to benefit through the banner areas for marketing purposes and by having access to an outdoor recreational area to plan events at or run dog training and related businesses at.

- Community Need

- Why is this project needed?

- While the Pines Recreational area dog park has served the dog owner community well for many years, there have been some conflicts regarding

the placement proximity of the park to the recreational fields, and there are numerous needs that could be better met at a more dedicated space (access to water, separation of large and small dogs, etc.). The placement of a more exclusive area would satisfy the needs of the families who use the recreational area and would allow for an expansion of resources for a newer and more intentional dog park.

The current dog park in Groveland is also spatially limited. The community is growing out of this park with sometimes up to 20 dogs playing at once in the Pines Recreational area dog park. A larger park with areas designated for large dogs and small dogs would create a safer play-time environment, which in turn encourages better dog behavior in the park, and therefore outside of the park as well.

- o How does it address the needs identified in existing Town plans?

- The Groveland Open Space and Recreation Plan states goals that have been selected to best preserve Groveland's small town character, natural resources and open space, as well as serve the needs of local recreation. A couple of these goals include protecting the small town character of Groveland, and enhancing recreational opportunities by protecting existing recreational land and acquiring additional land to meet increased demand due to projected population growth.

The community enhancement elements of the proposed dog park would be an active positive contribution to preserving the small town character of Groveland. This project gives Groveland the opportunity to be a leader in the dog park community, by investing in an intentional and highly functional dog park that competes with some of the best dog parks in the county.

- Community Support

- What is the nature and level of support and/or opposition for this project?

- As stated above, the current dog park community is tight-knit and very invested in the Pines Recreational dog park, and establishing an even better dog park for the community. There are currently 274 members on the Pines Rec Dog Park Facebook group, who are actively engaged in posting about the dog park and dog related topics and/or actively engaged in using the group to communicate about meet-up times and specific park related issues or topics. The level of participation is high, with added participation expected with a new park since there will be separate areas for smaller dogs. A petition started 2 months ago regarding support for a dog park received more than 700 “signatures” in about one week. Additionally, Michael Dempsey, the Chair of the Groveland Conservation Commission has provided continuous support and resources for this project. This community loves their dogs, and therefore love having a dog park in the Groveland area, and are committed to the dog park community and to any opportunity to enhance the community and canine experience.

- Include letters of support

- Please see attached letters of support.

- Timeline

- What is the schedule for project implementation?

- While we are at the beginning stages of this project, we were encouraged to still apply for this grant to help jump start the rest of the project planning. The plan is that the project will begin in the spring 2021.

- Include a timeline for all critical milestones.

- Due to being in the initial stages of planning, the timeline for critical milestones is to be determined.

- Implementation

- Who will be responsible for implementing the project?

- The Town of Groveland along with the board of directors for the new dog park will be responsible for implementing the project.

- Who will be the project manager?

- A licensed and insured contractor is projected to be the project manager for this project.

- What relevant experience does the project manager have?

- The City of Groveland and the board of directors for the dog park will plan to hire a project manager with existing experience in building parks.

- Success Factors

- How will the success of this project be measured?

- We plan to measure the success of this project through the annual funding that comes in to help maintain the project, through bi-annual community surveys, attendance at park events, and through the annual reviews executed by the board of directors that will be established for operating and maintaining the dog park.

- Please provide specific examples.

- The board of directors plans to coordinate annual fundraisers and/or fees to pay for the required maintenance of the dog park. We will be able to assess the success of the park based on the community engagement in these fundraisers and how much funds we end up raising.

Through the established facebook page, we have access to ways of surveying the current dog park users and gaining numbers of how many pet owners and their dogs are using the parks. The admins of the facebook page routinely update the active members by deleting any non-active members on the page and encouraging those who are active to stay involved. These updates help to gather the number of people who use the park throughout the year and opens up a platform for bi-annual surveys.

As stated above, we plan to establish an event space at this new dog park. We will be able to monitor the success of this park by keeping track of the number of events that are held each year as well as the number of attendance at each event. The board of directors will keep a spreadsheet of these numbers to help display annual growth. The board of directors will also establish annual goals for the dog park, and will review these goals seasonally, to help understand how the dog park is being used and what needs to be done to maintain it and make sure it's fulfilling the needs of the community.

- Budget

- What is the total budget for the project and how will CPA funds be spent?

- The total budget for this project is \$250,000. The CPA funds will be spent

for good faith funds towards hard construction cost to secure the grant from the Stanton Foundation (up to \$250,000)

- All items of expenditure must be clearly identified.

- While we are still in the initial stages of establishing this project, we

project the initial expenses to be for: grading of the lot, and adding irrigation, fountains, awnings, benches,

concrete pads, fencing. Other expenses will include the paving of the parking lot, adding loam and grass, creating pet clean up stations.

■ Details (estimates):

Items Cost Details

\$25,000 Town match towards \$250,000 grant

- Distinguish between hard and soft costs and contingencies. (NOTE: CPA funds may NOT be used for maintenance.)

■ All the expenses listed above are hard costs and do not include maintenance.

- You must include a budget item for closing costs if your project is a land purchase.

■ It is expected that land currently owned by the Town of Groveland will be used.

- You must include a budget item for signage or labeling to meet Groveland CPC requirements.

■ This detail is to be determined due to being in the initial stages of this project.

- You must include the cost of a Conservation Restriction for land purchases and or a Historic Preservation Restriction for historic projects. (Contact CPC for more information.)

■ N/A

● Other Funding / Matching

- What additional funding sources are available, committed, or under consideration?

- We plan to apply to The Stanton Foundation grants, which have available funds for up to \$225,000 for hard construction costs and up to \$25,000 for design.
 - How will CPA funds be used to leverage or match other grants and donations?
- The Stanton Foundation requires 10% or \$25,000 be in place to be eligible for the grant. The CPA funds would help to leverage our eligibility for this grant.
 - Include commitment letters, if available, and describe any other attempts to secure funding for this project.
- For more information about The Stanton Foundation dog park grants, please visit: <http://thestantonfoundation.org/canine/dog-parks>
- Maintenance
 - If ongoing maintenance is required for your project, how much will it cost?
- We anticipate that the annual cost for maintenance will be \$1,000.
 - If ongoing maintenance is required for your project, how will it be funded?
- We plan to fund any ongoing maintenance through the income collected volunteer work parties, fundraising, and possible small annual fees.
 - Additional Information (provide the following additional information, as applicable).
- N/A
 - Ownership
- Include documentation that shows you have control or plan to gain control over the site, such as Purchase and Sales Agreement, option, or deed.
- This proposal is on town-owned land. The specific site is pending and can be submitted once sit becomes official.
- Construction Plans

- For projects that include construction or rehabilitation, include the existing and proposed site plan, floor plans, elevations, and any other drawings as necessary to visually describe the proposal.

- Please see the attached drawings and site plan for this project.

- Compliance

- Provide evidence that the project is in compliance with the zoning by-laws, environmental requirements or any other laws or regulations.

- The project will comply with all state and town regulations and bylaws including Planning, Zoning and Conservation. Consultants will be hired as part of this project to assure full compliance.

Evidence can be found in the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting on November 25th, 2019. Upon issuance of CPA funds an architect would be hired to draw up official plans for submission for the permitting process.

- If the project is not in compliance, include plans to obtain necessary approvals.

- N/A

- Approvals

- Provide evidence that the appropriate Town Boards and Commissions have approved the project (for example, proposed new uses on Parks & Recreation land require approval from the Board of Selectmen.)

- Evidence can be found in the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting on November 25th, 2019.

- Environmental Hazards

- Provide assurance that the proposed site is free of hazardous materials or

that there is a plan for remediation in place.

- The site proposed by Board of Selectmen is currently a large recreation area.

- Standards

- Provide assurances that appropriate professional standards will be followed if construction, restoration or rehabilitation is proposed.

- The park would be built by construction firms that have experience building dog parks for the Stanton Foundation.

- Appraisals

- If the requested funds are for a real estate acquisition, an independent appraisal will be required. The appraisal must be completed or updated within one year prior to the date of application. Please note that CPA funds cannot be used over the appraised value of a land purchase project.

- N/A

December 11, 2019

Groveland Community Preservation Committee

Groveland, Massachusetts

Town Hall

183 Main Street

Groveland, MA 01834

Groveland Community Preservation Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the New Dog Park in Groveland project that is being submitted to the Groveland Community Preservation Committee. I am a resident of Haverhill, Massachusetts and moved to this area from Oregon just over two years ago. Moving across the country comes with many challenges, one of which includes finding community and a sense of belonging in a new place. At the Pines Rec. dog park, the dog owners and their dogs have been such a welcoming community to me, my husband, and our dog, Nilly.

When I first moved to the area, I wasn't aware of the dog park in Groveland and would drive 20 minutes to a dog park in Andover. The community at this park was not very welcoming though, and often times I would drive all that way to find no other dogs at the park. I was thrilled when I discovered the dog park in Groveland, which was almost right around the corner from my house and where I was welcomed into the community immediately. One of the things that initially set this dog park apart from others was that the dog owners were friendly, conscientious of their dogs, respectful, and had invested in numerous resources to make the dog park experience more enjoyable (adding a picnic table and umbrella, first aid kit, dog poop bags, and a solar powered light for the evenings). Spending time at the dog park is now one of my favorite activities to do with Nilly, and we make sure to stop there about 4 times per week for about 1.5 to 2 hours each time. Spending time at this dog park in Groveland, I have learned about new places to visit in Groveland and surrounding areas, the best local places for dog treats and toys, how to better train our dog to make sure she's a good canine citizen, upcoming local events to attend, and have spread the word to other dog owning friends who now enjoy the park as well.

Although the dog park community has invested so much in the Pines Rec. Dog Park, there are numerous amenities that would make our dog park experience even better, including: access to water, more lighting, more seating, separate large dog and small dog areas, and more space in general. Additionally, it has been brought to our attention that the placement of this dog park is not favored by the sports community using

the fields right next to the park, which can sometimes create tension. We believe that the creation of a new dog park that is more intentional and can catalyze more community engagement and activities would be an invaluable addition to the Groveland community and neighboring towns. We hope you consider this proposal and by doing so contribute to the enhancement of community life in the Groveland and surrounding areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Padilla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Erin Padilla | Local Dog Owner | Creative Haverhill Program Coordinator

Carole Funchion <carolefunchion@gmail.com>

To: jason.naves@att.net

Dec 11 at 3:13 PM

Oh, and:

A larger park would mean more frequent visits to the dog park for me & my small dog because there would be space dedicated for small dogs. It would also mean better drainage. Both of which are important to me as a small dog owner because my dog gets cold and uncomfortable very quickly, so better park conditions mean he'd be more comfortable.

Lots of new spaces to sniff is really important to my chihuahua/terrier dog. He's very smart & needs a lot of sniffing stimulation in a safe place. Often, even in Groveland, there is trash & broken glass on the roads. There are not enough sidewalks in town for Groveland to be what I'd consider a walkable town. Additionally, less responsible dog owners, who no doubt do not utilize the current dog park, do not pick up after their dogs. This is a health risk for our community, but also other dogs! Dogs could ingest & become sick. Because our yard is his territory, it does not offer the same kind of mental stimulation that a large park, with room for training and the play of being with other dogs, would offer. It would be a safe, clean, well cared for space where I would not need to worry about accidental ingestion of waste, or small paws being cut by stray shards of glass.

A park would enrich both of our lives, and no doubt any other dog owners who would benefit from being part of a community that encourages responsible dog ownership (such as picking up after your dog)

Jeffrey1 <jeffreyparolisi1@comcast.net>

To: jason.naves@att.net

Dec 10 at 10:34 AM

To whom it may concern

My wife and I frequent the Groveland dog park, it is always a busy and social place for our dogs as well as the adults, we would greatly benefit from a larger area that had better lighting

Thank you

Jeffrey parolisi
1 Anne st
Groveland ma 01834
Sent from my iPhone

JANINE GASTONGUAY <janineg1@comcast.net>

To: jason.naves@att.net

Dec 9 at 2:36 PM

To Whom it may concern,

We go to the Groveland dog park almost every day and our dog, Sally, is a healthier, happier dog because of the exercise and playing with the other dogs at the dog park. The dogs really need a safe place that is enclosed with water and a place to throw away waste to keep the park clean. The people that frequent the dog park are respectful and helpful and take very good care of their dogs and the park. We have donated chairs as well as other people and Jason installed solar lighting and did many other things to make the park better for the dogs. Please don't take the current dog park away and please help us plan for a new dog park that everyone can enjoy. We will help in every way possible. Thank you for your consideration!! The Gastonguay's

Christine Corley <ccorley7@gmail.com>

To: jason.naves@att.net

Dec 9 at 10:47 AM

I am writing to state my support for a new dog park in Groveland. We have been using the current dog park for almost 2 years. It provides a fun, safe place for us to bring our dog to socialize. It has also allowed my husband and I to feel a part of the community. We moved to Groveland from out of town 2 years ago. We did not know anyone and meeting friends and neighbors at the dog park made us feel at home.

The town will benefit from a new park that is bigger with more space and more parking. A new park with updated amenities such as water fountains, shaded areas and play areas for different size dogs would be useful. The members of the dog park can be seen at any time of year picking up the dog park, cutting the lawn and plowing the parking spaces. The dog park members are committed to making sure the new park will be taken care of properly.

We fully support the construction of a new dog park in Groveland.

Christine Corley and Chris Whelan
12 Juniper Terrace
Groveland, MA 01834

Inez Steele <inezsteele@yahoo.com>

To: Jason Naves

Dec 9 at 10:13 AM

Dear Jason,

As a resident of Groveland, I fully support efforts to build a new dog park.

I receive many benefits by using the current park and I know those benefits would increase for me with a larger, better designed park. I also know that more people would be able to use a new dog park since there will be areas for small dogs, better parking, available water, etc. thereby benefiting many more town residents.

My dog and I look forward to our time at the park and have met many wonderful people and their animals. It has allowed me to be a stronger part of the Groveland community.

Inez Steele

6 Union Street

Groveland, MA 01834

lcy630@aol.com <lcy630@aol.com>

To: jason.naves@att.net

Dec 8 at 12:09 AM

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Chris Marino. I have a dog name Mojo. We discovered the Pines Rec dog park in the early summer of 2018. My husband and I have raised German Shepherds for years. Earlier that spring my husband died. I was left to socialise the new puppy myself. I came upon Pines Rec by word of mouth. The friend said it was a great place because the dogs and thier owners were a tight knit group. Well that was what I needed as my children are grown and my husband was gone and I was left with this puppy that needed to run. Well, I have met a community beyond my expectations. I have learned that there are so many people like me who need a place to socialise thier dogs. It's not only that but we have grown as family amongst ourselves as we bring our dogs to the park in the blistering heat in the summer and in the frigid cold in the depths of winter. We are there. My world changed when my husband died and I was left with a puppy. My world changed when Mojo and I met our dog park community.

Thank you Chris and Mojo Marino

Dear Reader,

I'd like to take a minute to talk about The Groveland Dog Park, and why I fully support the creation of a new and improved park. I am a first-time dog owner with an apartment with very little outdoor space available, I have enough room to let my dog out for regular bathroom breaks, however nothing enclosed so he is always on a leash and requires constant supervision. He, like all other dogs, requires exercise and socialization which he was getting through long walks and frequent trips to friend's houses who are also dog owners. Even with these outings, he would still need a few hours a day of active playtime, which is not respectful to my downstairs neighbors. The Groveland Dog Park provides the perfect solution to all of these hurdles in my dog ownership but is small in comparison to how often/how much the park gets used. Whenever I go, there are almost always ten or more dogs of varying sizes, breeds, and ages. It would be extremely beneficial to have multiple separate areas to include as many dogs as possible in the experience that is the dog park. Furthermore, it would provide a safe and secure place for myself, or anyone, to train their dog alongside other dogs but not with other dogs to ensure he/she always listens to the owner, despite the environment or the distractions. The Groveland Dog Park has introduced me to an entire community that I never knew existed. I have never met such a friendly and welcoming bunch of people or dogs, and I truly enjoy my time at the park not only for the love and benefit of my animal but also for the socialization it offers me. I try to bring my dog to the park at least once every day, no matter the weather conditions, and I try very hard to stay as long as I can stand the elements. This is obviously quite difficult in the hot summer months or in the dead of winter, a new park with more appropriate accommodations for myself and other dog owners would be a wonderful improvement and would certainly bring in new park-goers. I know my dog and myself have benefited infinitely since finding out about the park and I truly believe that the construction of a new and more extensive park would only prove to provide more of these positive experiences for dogs and dog people alike. This exciting opportunity could also greatly strengthen The Town of Grovelands community as a whole. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter that is so important to so many of us.

Regards,

Peter Chandler

14 Pleasant st

Ipswich, MA, 01938

(978) 471-1103

Justice Vertigans 49 S
Chestnut St. Haverhill,
MA 01835 (978) 504-
0906

To Whom it May Concern,

Hello, my name is Justice Vertigans and I am a regular visitor of the Groveland Pines Dog Park. I have been attending this dog park every day since I got my 7-month-old lab mix puppy 3 months ago. I tried to bring him to other dog parks in the area but none other dog parks are as often visited or equipt for dogs or their owners as much as this park, yet there is still so much room for growth. The dog park creates such a great community and having a larger one with more specialized areas such as a small dog area, a larger dog area, a training area, and an owner area. Including all of the previously listed designated areas would make the park be of more use to a more diverse dog population. The socialization my puppy has experienced at this park is essential for his daily life interactions when meeting new animals or humans. Not only is the dog park great for socialization, but it is also great for having a quick and efficient way of wearing my pup out after I have had a long day at work so we can enjoy our time together at home without him becoming overly rambunctious and/or destructive because he has too much energy. Soon as we get home from the park, he is worn out enough to get a good training session in therefore he will have proper manners throughout his lifespan and eventually become a certified therapy dog to come to work with me. If we did not go to the park multiple times every day, I would have to take him for multiple hour-long walks per day, if not more, and that would leave me no time to properly train him by the end of the day. Going to the dog park every day is the highlight of my day. With my educational and professional experience within the healthcare field, I know it is important for all animals, including humans, to exert their energy in positive ways in order to live a long and healthy life. To experience my puppy running around and playing with other dogs of all shapes, sizes, and ages is amazing and puts the biggest smile on everyone's face who visits. Receiving the funds from the CPA would greatly benefit not only the dogs that visit the dog park but also their owners and their families. There are very minimal costs, if any, to the town of Groveland associated with the initial building of a new and better dog park as the construction expenses are covered by the Stanton Fountain and fundraising. The only thing a new dog park will take away from the town is some land, but that land will go to great use and will be used every day, year-round, rain, snow, sleet, or shine! I would like to conclude this letter by clearly stating that I, my family, and my puppy, one-hundred percent support the creation of a newer bigger, better, and safer dog park.

Kindest regards,

Justice Vertigans OTA/s