



New Dog Park Coming to Manhattan

The idea of a new dog park in Manhattan has turned into a unique multi-partner project involving intergovernmental cooperation and public-private partnerships to bring a new amenity to the Manhattan community. Dr. Scott Park, named in memory of Dr. Scott Becker, a Manhattan resident and veterinarian, will open during the summer of 2025 after years of planning. The Village of Manhattan approached the Manhattan Park District in 2023 with the idea of bringing a new dog park to 1.5 acres of land owned by Metra, conveniently located adjacent to the Wauponsee Glacial Trail.

Mayor of Manhattan, Mike Adrieansen, remarked, "We are proud to bring this new dog park to Manhattan through a strong partnership with the Park District and Metra. This project reflects our shared commitment to enhancing quality of life and creating more spaces where residents and their four-legged friends can enjoy our great community. Thank you to everyone who supported this project. We look forward to seeing you at the ribbon cutting."

After much discussion, the Village, the Park District, and Metra agreed to a long-term land lease for Dr. Scott Park. The Village is responsible for constructing the park, and the Park District is responsible for park operations once the park is open to the public. Private donations and sponsorships have made the park project possible. Earthrise Energy donated \$50,000, and Girl Scout Troop 75599 donated \$500 for the park. Kate Gooding, wife of the late Dr. Scott Becker, generously donated \$20,000 in memory of her husband.

"As a lifelong resident of Manhattan, I knew that honoring Dr. Scott's memory with a gift to our community was the perfect tribute. When Scott, a beloved veterinarian, passed unexpectedly in 2020, family and friends came together to donate in his name. Today, that love and generosity have taken shape as Manhattan's very first dog park. We are thrilled to see Dr. Scott's legacy live on through the joyful barks, wagging tails, and deep bonds shared at Dr. Scott Park, a space that reflects his lifelong devotion to animals and the people who love them," said Kate Gooding.

The park will feature separate fenced areas for large and small dogs, making it a safe and comfortable environment for dogs of all sizes. The park will include benches, shade structures, and water stations for drinking and washing off pets to ensure both pets and their humans are happy and well cared for. Grand Prairie Animal Hospital donated a water station and two pet waste stations, the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce donated a second water station, and Dynasty Utility Services donated approximately \$7000 in infrastructure services.

Dr. Scott Park, a Manhattan Community Dog Park, will open later this summer with a grand opening event planned for July 14. The grand opening celebration for humans and canines will include a ribbon cutting, dog-friendly games and activities, rescue organizations, and pet vendors.

Manhattan Park District Executive Director Jay Kelly stated, "Not only is the dog park a wonderful example of intergovernmental cooperation and public-private partnerships, but it is also a great addition to the overall park system within the Manhattan Park District. We are a proud partner of Dr. Scott Park and are happy that we can provide the ongoing operational support of the park to the community."

Dog park memberships will be managed through the Manhattan Park District. Dogs are required to be fully immunized, dewormed, and licensed. Dog Park membership applications and rules will be posted on the Manhattan Park District's website at manhattanparks.org before registration opens this summer.