

Michigan

Muskegon dog park moving closer to reality at old Carpenter Bros. site

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MUSKEGON, MI – Plans are moving forward for a new Muskegon dog park at the former Carpenter Brothers property on West Western Avenue.

The partners in the project have received grant funding for the project, and plan to launch a community fund-raising effort as well, said Cathy Brubaker-Clark, director of community and economic development for the city of Muskegon.

She said construction could start this fall with the park open to canines and their humans next year.

The park will offer separate fenced-in play areas for large and small dogs, she said.

The idea of a dog park at that Muskegon County-owned location first surfaced two years ago. The site is at the corner of West Western and Shoreline Drive near Heritage Landing.

The property is about 0.7-acre and includes parking and grassy area up to railroad tracks that cross through the site, said Dave Alexander, executive director of Downtown Muskegon Now. The county will lease the property for \$1 to Downtown Muskegon Now, Alexander said.

Partners in the project include the city, Downtown Muskegon Now, the county, Sarah Sass and the Watermark Center and the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, Brubaker-Clark said.

Converting the property to a dog park will require about \$100,000 and will be fairly simple to accomplish, she said. The existing brick gateway will be spruced up, a parking area paved and fencing installed, including a decorative fence around the entire property similar to that at the county's Heritage Landing park, she said. Some funds will be reserved to establish an ongoing maintenance fund, she said.

The project has received a \$50,000 Michigan Economic Development Corp. grant that requires a \$50,000 community match, she said. A second grant yet to be announced will help reach that goal and a "crowd funding" effort will be launched soon, she said.

The site is the location of the former Carpenter Brothers warehouse destroyed in a fire in 1998.

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