

Lansing Unleashed eNews – July 12, 2007: Soldan Dog Park Update

Hello, Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Park,

Update on Opening the Soldan Dog Park: We just learned some good news and bad news from Ingham County Parks Department. (They are the primary staff helping to get the park ready to be opened.) First the bad news: There is still much work to be done in clearing the pathways and preparing walking paths in our large park. Items needed for a successful public dog park—think rules signage, poop bags, porta-jon, pet and human water fountain—still need to be installed. Sturdy rye grass needs to be planted in bare areas and given a short time to root. Another challenge: We walked the park a few days ago and discovered that there is much more poison ivy than ever anticipated, not only in green areas next to the path but also on some areas of the walking path. You may have read recent news reports of the proliferation of poison ivy; our park is an undeveloped wooded area we want to retain as much as possible but without the large quantities of poison ivy. People can be trained to avoid it, but not unleashed dogs. These are all things that have to be completed before the start of the high level of usage we are expecting.

Right now we do not have a projected target date for opening the dog park, though we hope it will be in the early part of August. (Yes, we are as frustrated as you are with the wait, maybe more so.) Ingham County Parks has just taken over Potter Park Zoo and their first priority for the work crews is at the zoo, which is facing a major accreditation visit in July. We are discussing the possibility of recruiting volunteers from our membership to help with some of the work. We know that everyone is anxiously awaiting the park opening (Believe us, we are getting your calls and the emails) but please do not try to use the park just yet. The gates are closed for now. You may still walk with your dog on leash in the adjacent Scott Woods Park as well as many other parks in the area, of course. Information will be available on this website when the park is open to the public.

Small Dog Area: Now for the really good news: Ingham County Parks Department, with the approval of Ingham County Parks Commission, has agreed to fund the additional approximately \$5000 needed to enclose a small dog area within the Soldan Dog Park! As you know, we have located what we think is the best spot for a small dog area; it is the SE corner of the park right by the main entrance and would be an area approximately 85 feet by 110 feet. (This is the largest area possible to still be in the front of the park). The fencing for the small dog area is tentatively scheduled to be installed in the next few weeks and should be ready when the Soldan Dog Park opens.

We sincerely thank our members who have already donated funds toward the small dog area. Your donations will go towards any extra costs needed for the small dog area and startup costs for the park.

What about updates? Our members will get the very first notification when the park is ready to be used. Members, stay tuned for an email coming to your inbox.

That is all for now. Woof! Stay in touch through our web site at: www.lansingunleashed.com

Our organization does most of its direct mail communication via email to save on postage costs. Email addresses are used for information on dog parks and dog related events and are not shared with third parties. Paid members without email access will receive mailings through the U.S. Postal Service.

To unsubscribe from Lansing Unleashed eNews, send an email to info@lansingdogparks.com with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.