

Town of Lewisboro Dog Park Proposal

presented Monday, June 11, 2018
to The Town Board, Lewisboro, New York

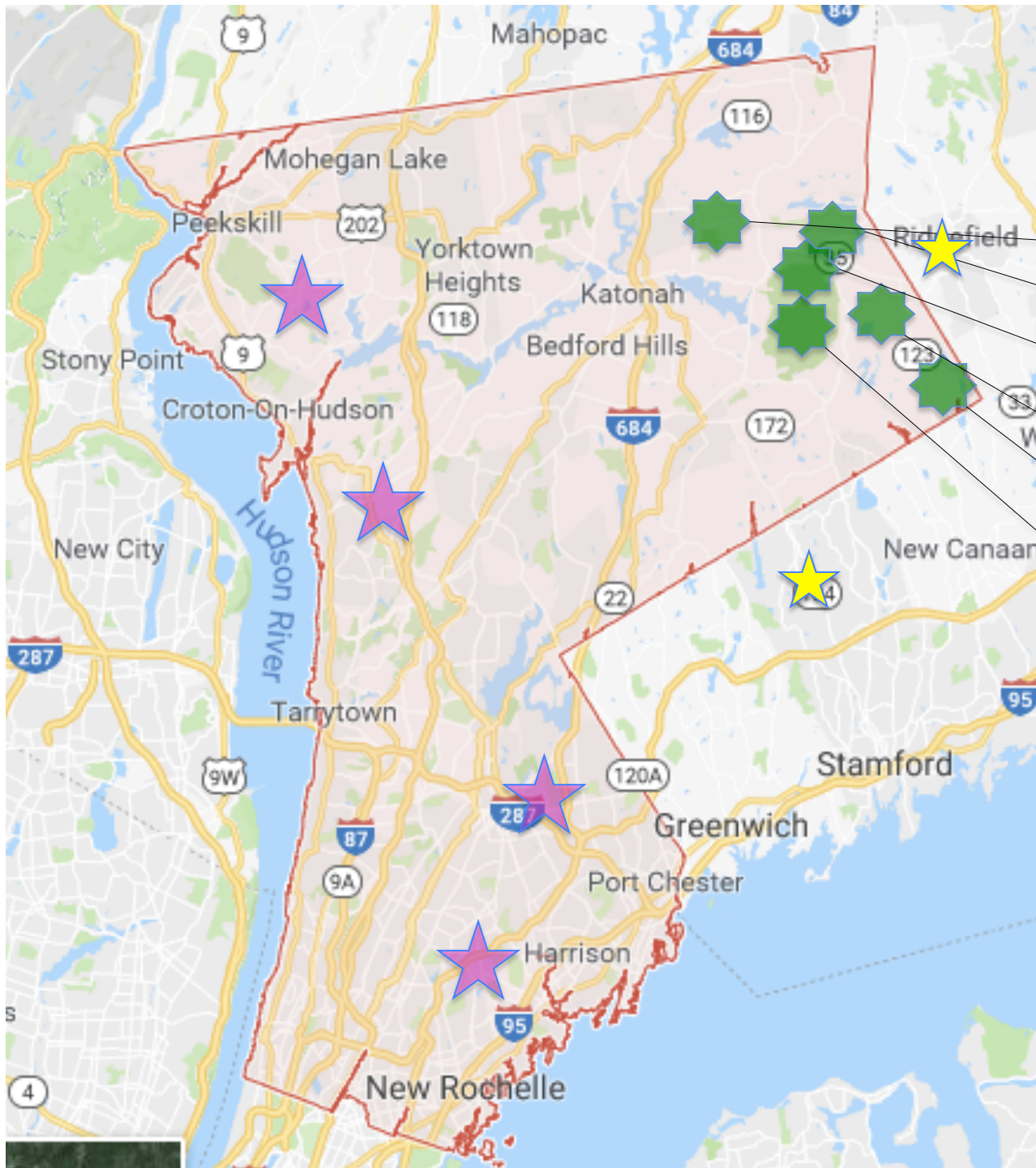
Outline

- Need
- Location/Design
- Sample Site
- Benefits
- Community Support
- Concerns
- Best Practices
- Supporting Documentation

Need

- **Established Dog Ownership:** In a township with 4,000 homes, over 1,300 (33% ratio) dog licenses are issued annually
- **Accessibility:** Closest Westchester dog park with full amenities (water, shade, seating, etc.) is 21 miles away the Town
- **Lost Town Revenue:** Lewisboro dog owners are paying visitor fees (\$100/year and up) at neighboring parks, including some in Connecticut
- **Health & Safety Hazards:** Dog owners are currently allowing their dogs off lead on Lewisboro Town properties and not cleaning up after them; not controlling them fully to prevent fights/bites
- **Desirability:** Research shows dog parks are the #2 most desired amenity for home buyers, and are especially popular with millenials





Location:

Possible Sites

Fox Valley

LES

Town Park

Leon Levy

Onatru

Ward Pound
Ridge



Possible sites



Existing sites

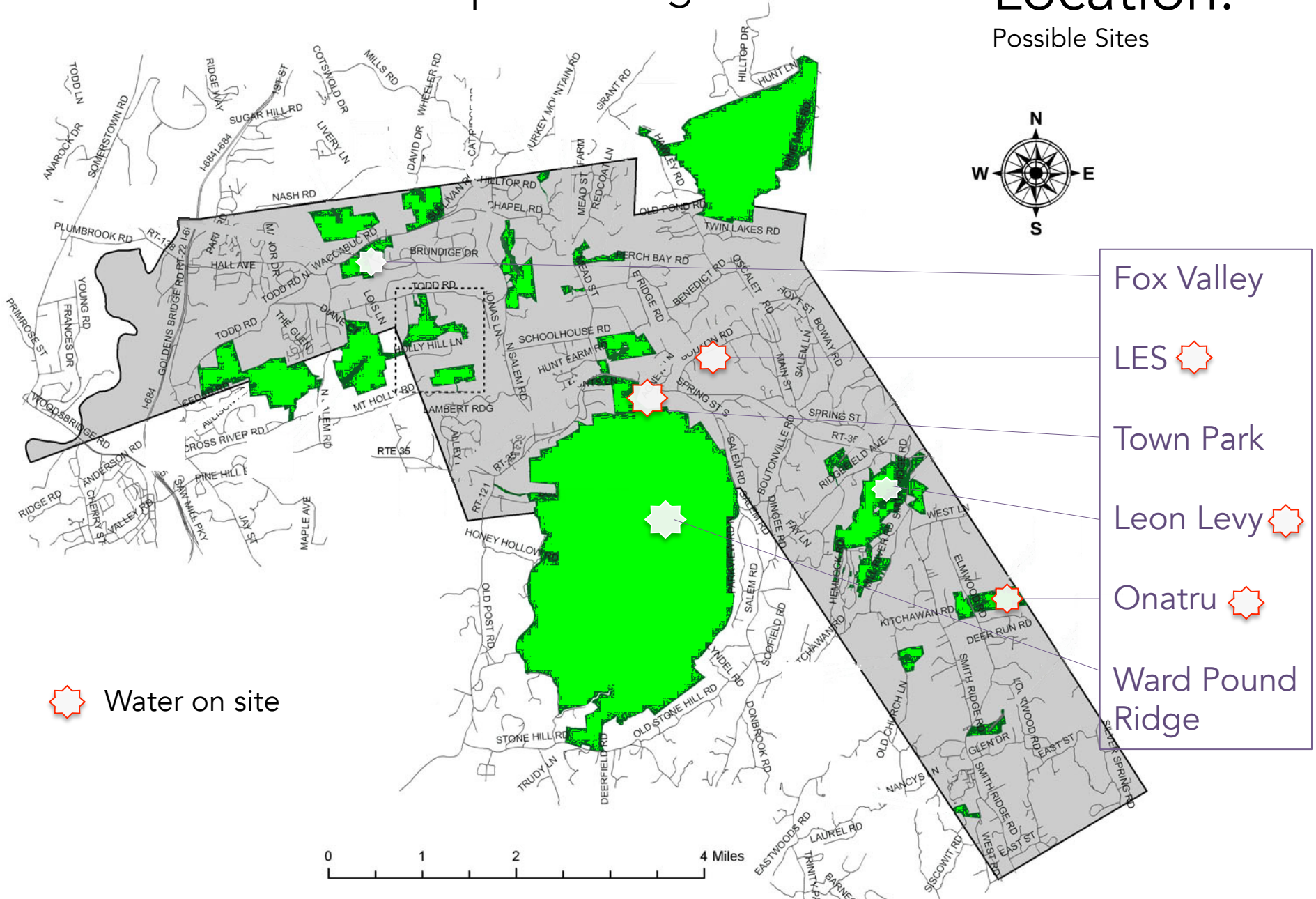


CT sites

Town of Lewisboro Proposed Dog Park sites

Location:

Possible Sites



Sample site @ Onatru Farm

Location

Sample



Sample site @ Onatru Farm (close-up)

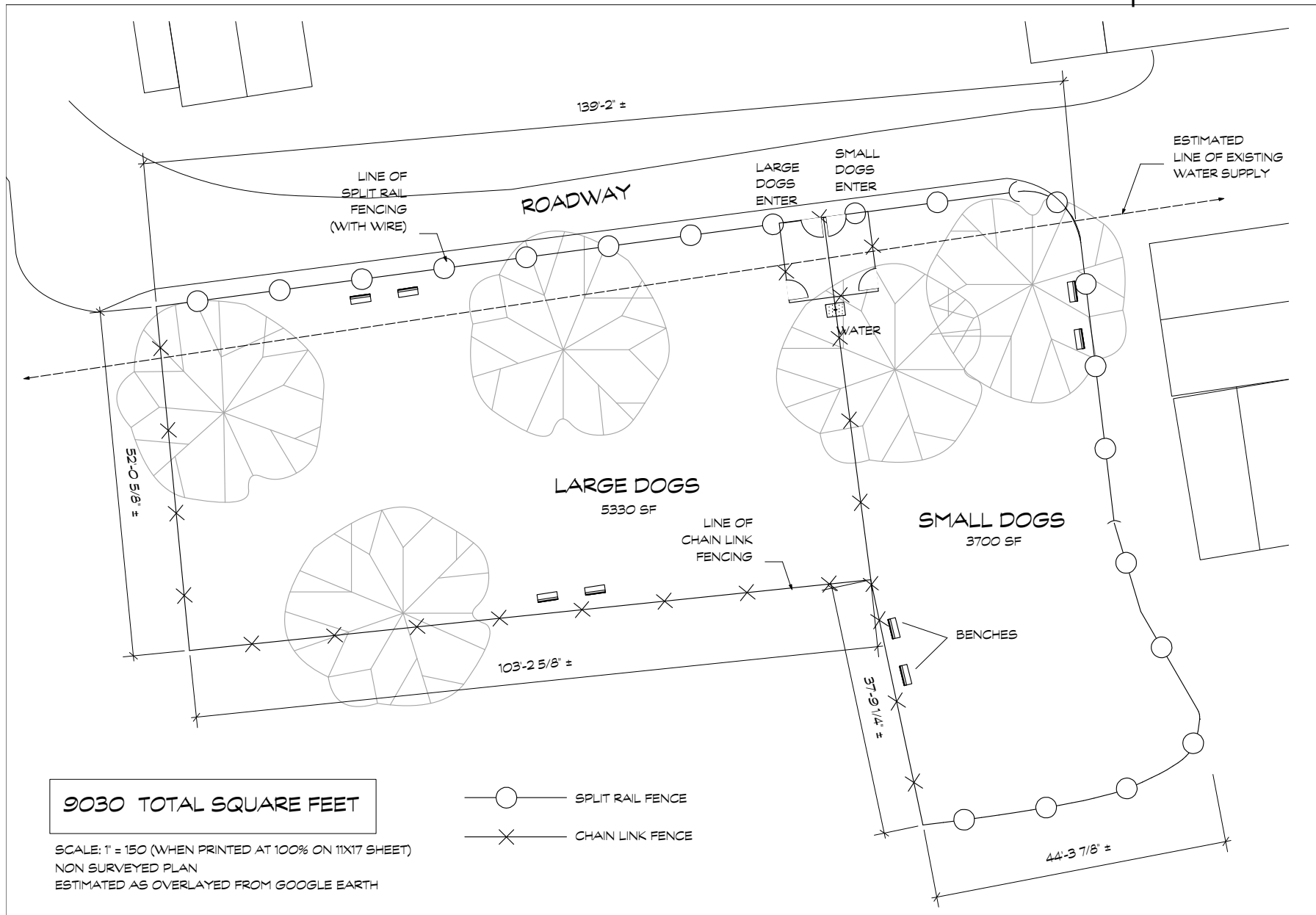
Location

Sample



Based on sample site @ Onatru Farm

Design Sample



Benefits: Humans

Pet Owners & Community Members

- Offers attractive off-lead walking experience in the neighborhood
- Discourages prevalent off-lead walking in Lewisboro's public properties (Ward Pound Ridge, Onatru Farm, Leon Levy Preserve) averting potential insurance and health hazards
- Encourages cleaning up after one's dog
- Allows for community-building and bonding
- Creates a network of neighbors who share information, and may also help one another in during emergencies (storms, flooding, power outages, etc.)
- Has health benefits, especially for those who normally do not take their dogs out—both in terms of exercise and connection
- Offers a desirable feature for owners of the 1,300+ licensed dogs in the area and pet-owning home buyers interested in the area
- Offers an incentive for those pet owners without licenses to procure them, adding to the town's revenue
- With the inclusion of a bulletin board in the design, raises awareness about the Town's activities, offerings and opportunities, bringing additional community participation to the Town

Benefits: Town of Lewisboro

Town of Bedford Dog Run (<u>not</u> full amenity) - 2018	#	\$	TOTAL
Resident Passes	160*	\$50	\$8,000
Non-Resident Passes	38	\$175	\$6,650
TOTAL ACTUAL REVENUE			\$14,650
*represents 22% of licenses issued			

Town of Lewisboro Dog Park (full amenity) annual projection	#	\$	TOTAL
Resident Passes	295*	\$25	\$7,375
Non-Resident Passes	70	\$100	\$7,000
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE			\$14,375
*represents 22% of licenses issued			

Benefits: Town of Lewisboro

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*represents 22% of licenses issued			

Town of Lewisboro Dog Park (full amenity) annual projection	#	\$	TOTAL
Resident Passes	295*	\$50	\$14,750
Non-Resident Passes	70	\$175	\$12,250
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE			\$27,000
*represents 22% of licenses issued			

Annual Maintenance Budget Estimate

Item	#/type	\$	Total
Weekly Maintenance	156 hours (3 hrs/week)	\$35	\$5,460
Admin Town Clerk's Office	118 hours (2.25 hrs/week average)	\$33	\$3,894
Supplies	Garbage bags		Included in Town budget
Supplies	Doggie bags/ stickers		donated
Grounds Maintenance			Included in Town budget
Repairs	various		\$2,000
Contingency	add 10%		\$1,135
TOTAL			\$12,489
		SURPLUS	\$1,886-\$14,511

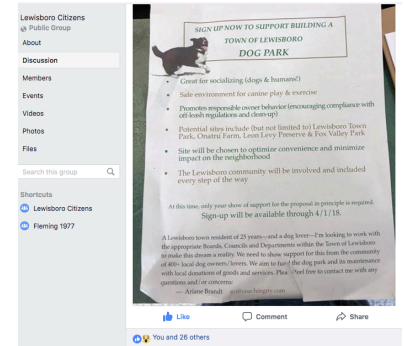
Benefits: Dogs

- Westchester dogs currently have few options for off-lead running and play
- Offers an unparalleled opportunity for socializing, which is critical to dog development and healthy dog-human interactions
- Provides an important service in helping the dogs exercise off lead; this has several benefits:
 - Reduces stress,
 - Calms aggressiveness
 - Helps eliminate destructive behaviors (especially due to boredom)
 - Aids in maintaining proper weight levels
- Provides an outlet for dogs who do not have fenced-in back yards to run free

Community Support

as of 6/2/18

- 135 Unique Statements of Support from Lewisboro residents/152 Total Supporters
 - 74 Signatures
 - 66 Facebook Likes
 - 12 Additional Emails of Support
- 15 Signatures of support from outside Lewisboro
 - Potential guest members?
- Recent front page Katonah-Lewisboro Times article
 - Coverage in issue of 4/5 a result of community response to dog "business" proposal coverage in issue of 3/15



The Katonah-Lewisboro Times

Superintendent tabs new middle school principal

BY BRIAN MARSHCHENKIN
 Superintendent Jeffrey Spornica will be the new principal of John Jay Middle School, pending school board approval. Spornica, who has been at the school for 10 years, will be replacing the late principal, John Jay Middle School principal Jeffrey Spornica. Spornica, who has been at the school for 10 years, will be replacing the late principal, John Jay Middle School principal Jeffrey Spornica. Spornica, who has been at the school for 10 years, will be replacing the late principal, John Jay Middle School principal Jeffrey Spornica.



Lewisboro community dog park proposed Will be vetted by Town Board on April 23

BY BRIAN MARSHCHENKIN
 Lewisboro residents are planning to present a proposal to the Lewisboro Town Board for a community dog park. The proposal, which will be presented by the Lewisboro Dog Park Committee, is for a 10-acre dog park located on Route 125, near the intersection of Route 125 and Route 125. The park would be a 10-acre dog park located on Route 125, near the intersection of Route 125 and Route 125. The park would be a 10-acre dog park located on Route 125, near the intersection of Route 125 and Route 125.

Hope MAZZOLA
 REAL ESTATE
 Call 914.714.0900

WILLIAM BOWEN
 REAL ESTATE
 Call 914.714.0900

THE KATONAH-LEWISBORO TIMES
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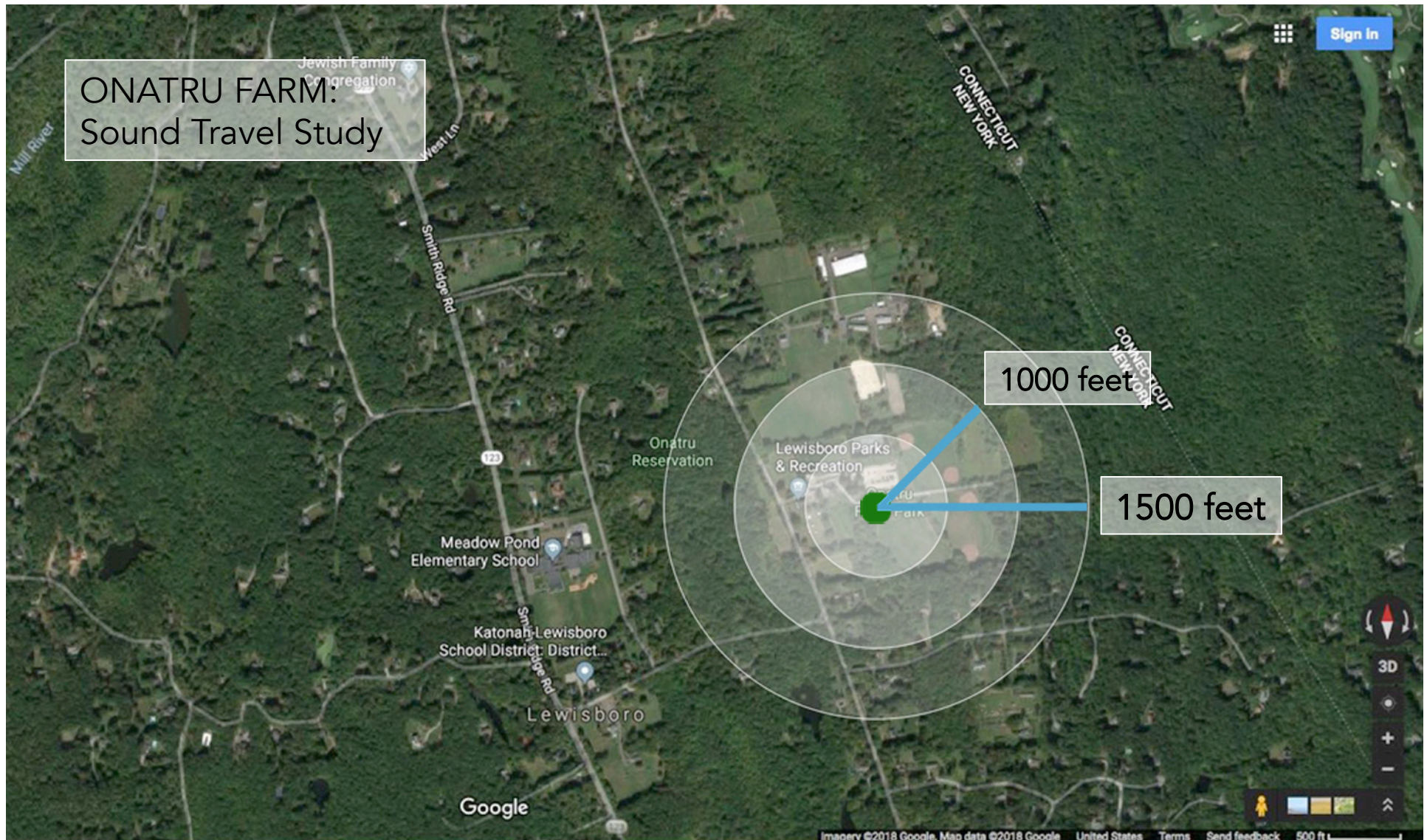
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 Email: info@katonah-library.com • Website: www.katonah-library.com

Show your support for creating a
**TOWN OF LEWISBORO
 DOG PARK**

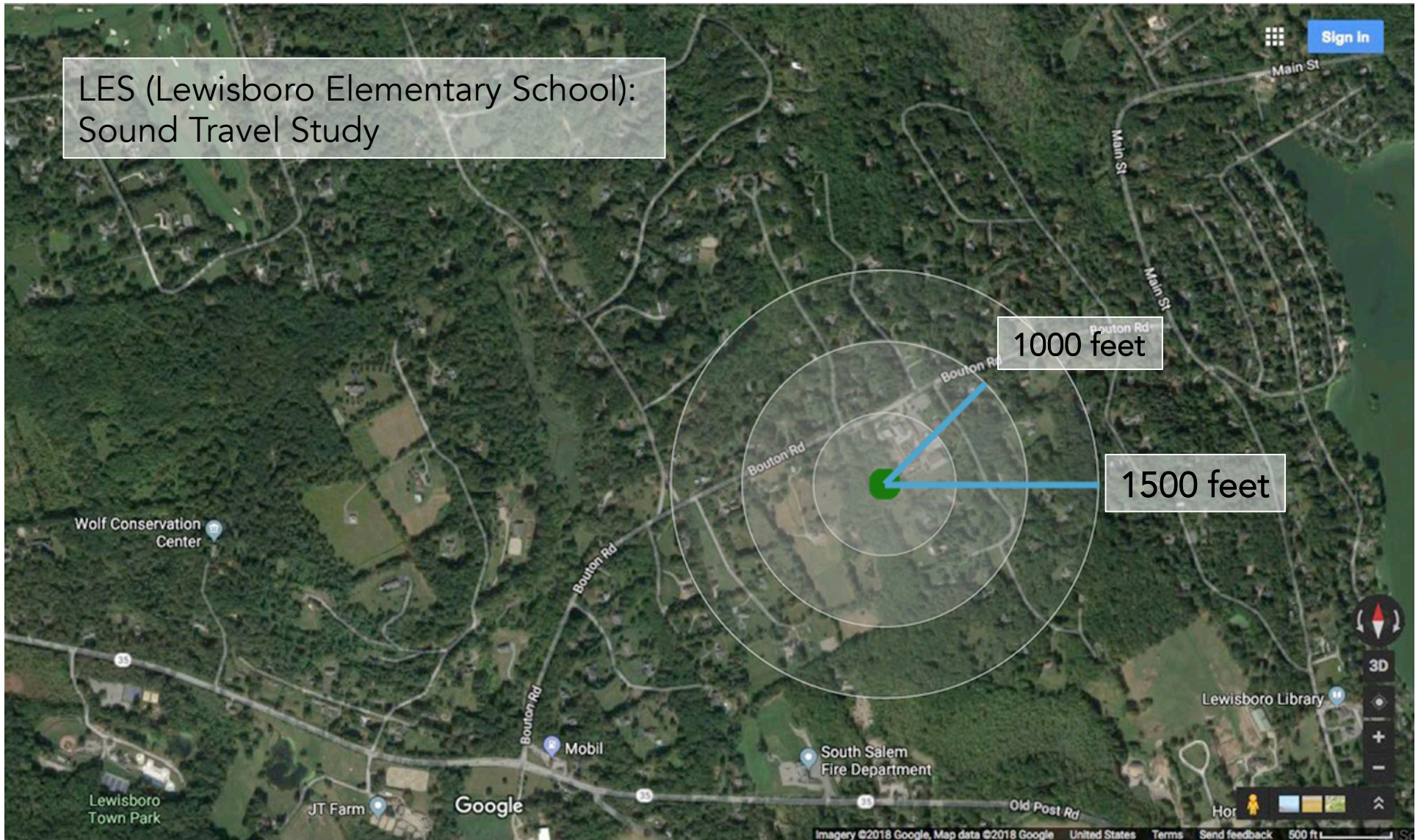
Please sign our petition to the
 Town Board meeting this Spring (2018)

Concerns/Responses

- Cost to build
 - Most park costs are covered through donated goods and services; typical contributors include local contractors, fencers, dog shelters, veterinarians and pet stores; could be an Eagle Scout project
- Water/Plumbing
 - Onatru and LES both have water supplies in place; other sites can be vetted for this feature, and how it might add to costs
- Cost to maintain
 - Please see budget sheet; maintenance of grass and grounds can still be provided as part of current contracts; donations from local vendors can be solicited for repairs and doggy bag supplies
- Insurance
 - None of the area's dog parks have found their municipalities' premiums significantly raised; dog parks are usually included in existing policies; a local broker from Arthur Gallagher (insurer of 25% of WC municipalities for the past 30 years) has never seen a dog park claim
- Parking
 - Many sites have ample parking within easy walking distance
- Noise levels
 - Please see accompanying illustration showing few homes would even be affected by the traveling sounds of barking
- Safety
 - Best practices and well-displayed policies will be in place to promote the safety of all participants; please see accompanying sample policies from another area dog park




A dog's bark averages 100 decibels, roughly the same level as a motorcycle; at 1000 feet, that reduces to about 37 decibels, the level of a babbling brook; at 1500 feet, to approximately 32 decibels, the level of a whisper.




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Best Practices



Ossining Recreation & Parks Department
95 Broadway, Ossining, NY 10562
(914) 941-3189





OSSINING DOG PARK @ CEDAR LANE
Operating Hours: Park open from Dawn to Dusk

Dog Park Rules:

- To access the Ossining Dog Park all dogs must have a current/valid Dog Park Registration with tag provided by the Ossining Recreation & Parks Department. *The Ossining Recreation & Parks Department reserves the right to restrict access to any dog that is found using the park without the proper tag/registration. Please contact the Recreation Office at 914-941-3189 with any questions regarding dog park registration.*
- All dogs must wear properly fitted collars with Dog Park tag, ID tags and license(s) while in the park.
- Please watch your dog at all times. Do not leave your dog unattended.
- Dogs that are consistently violent will be banned from the park.
- You are legally responsible for all dogs and guests you bring into the park.
- In the event of injury, you are responsible for the damages your pet(s) or guest(s) cause.
- Children 12 or under must be supervised while in the park.
- All dogs must be properly licensed, inoculated and healthy.
- All male dogs over the age of 8 months and under the age of 10 years must be neutered.
- No dogs in heat are allowed in park.
- All dogs must be on-leash while in the parking lot. Please unleash your dog in the gated area before entering the park.
- Please do not use choke, prong or spike collars while in the park.
- Please carry your leash with you at all times.
- Please clean up after your dog using the bags and receptacles provided.
- Please fill in any holes your dog makes.
- No food permitted inside the park.
- No smoking inside the park.
- No littering. Please use the trash receptacles provided.

Non-compliance with these rules can result in expulsion from the Ossining Dog Park and temporary or permanent loss of park privileges. Please contact the Ossining Recreation & Parks Department to report any concerns, 914-941-3189.



- Clear rules & policies
- Good signage
- Easily accessible water & bowls
 - Prevents dehydration
 - Available to break up fights
- Two sides: for <25 lbs. and for >25 lbs.
- A double gate with separate entrances for each side
- Thoroughly fenced area, at least 5' high; reinforced bottom (e.g. plexiglass)
- Decomposed granite or other durable surface material vs. grass, if possible
- Provide group seating made from durable materials (aluminum, wood composite, etc.)
- Provide shaded areas
- Provide small waste disposal bags and lined trash cans on site

Security & Enforcement

(example)



- Provide dog tags and car stickers
- Install programmable, industrial digital lock (approx. \$1,100 one-time cost)
 - Weather-rated/Weatherproof
 - Supports up to 2,000 users with unique PIN codes
 - Easily re-programmable for new codes each year
 - Can be used with battery back-up
 - 500 Timed Schedule Capacity (can lock park dusk to dawn)
 - Audit Trail with Time/Date stamp for added security
 - Auto lock-out after 3 failed attempts
 - Can easily revoke passes for those who share their key code by deactivating only one code

PEEKSKILL DOG PARK

Peekskill

WHY YOU SHOULD GO: With separate areas for big and small pups, this wood chip-lined dog park ticks off all the boxes for pet owners. Along with many shade trees, benches, and a plastic bag dispenser, there are also hydrants in both runs so dogs can take aim! But the best part just might be the parking—there's plenty of it.

KEEP IN MIND: Though wood chips make for softer landings when dogs race and tumble, they can also get muddy when the ground gets wet.

DETAILS: 1795 Main St., Peekskill. For more information, call 914-734-7275.

OSSINING DOG PARK

Ossining

WHY YOU SHOULD GO: Folks who live in northern Westchester will enjoy this fully fenced dog park, located within Cedar Lane Park and open from dawn till dusk. Situated on roughly 1 acre, it has dedicated runs for large and small dogs. Benches, tables, and a few donated doggie toys make relaxing here easy, whether you have four legs or two. And as the weather turns cooler, dog owners can step out of the wind and warm up in the small shelter and information area right on the property.

KEEP IN MIND: To use this dog park you'll need a dog park pass from the Ossining Recreation and Parks Department. The fee is \$15 for residents, \$25 for non-residents. There's usually a portable bathroom in the park's parking lot as well as waste bags on site. Be sure to drive carefully—the road that approaches the run is a single car wide. And as at most dog runs, don't use a choke collar or one with prongs while inside the park.

DETAILS: 235 Cedar Ln., Ossining. For more information, call 914-941-3189.



BARK PARK

White Plains

WHY YOU SHOULD GO: Big and little dogs alike have lots of space to roam at Bark Park, a doggie recreation area spread over more than 14,000 square feet. This property has two separate areas for pups to explore, as well as water fountains for both canines and humans. And the gravel surface means less dirt may end up in your car and home.

KEEP IN MIND: There's no charge to use this park, but pets who visit it, as well as the other parks on this list, must be vaccinated and licensed. And if you happen to be single, consider this location on Friday evenings. Per the Bark Park Facebook page, there's a singles meet-up each Friday after work!

DETAILS: Brockway Pl., White Plains. For more information, call 914-422-1336.

WARD POUND RIDGE RESERVATION

Pound Ridge

WHY YOU SHOULD GO: Originally part of Cortlandt Manor, this reservation is home to a biodiversity reserve and, at more than 4,000 acres, is the county's largest park. Your dog will love dashing along the 4.6-mile rock trail, which skirts a boulder that has a bear image carved in it by Native Americans long ago.

KEEP IN MIND: You don't need a county park pass to enter, though it does help to reduce the parking fee (\$5 with a park pass, \$10 without). Pets must be leashed on this property. Dogs aren't allowed in the picnic areas.

DETAILS: On Rt. 121 S., close to the intersection of Rt. 35, Cross River. For more information, call 914-864-7317. •

Why Walking Your Dog Helps Your Health

You know your dog needs enough exercise to stay healthy and entertained, but rather than letting him out the back door to run and play, why not grab your sneakers and join him?

Ari J. Paley, MD, a cardiologist with Maple Medical and White Plains Hospital, is a big fan of walking a dog for exercise and good health. "Dogs are actually nature's perfect personal trainers—loyal, hardworking, energetic, and enthusiastic," he says.

There's also solid science behind the benefits of walking your dog: Researchers at Michigan State University found that dog owners are 34 percent more likely to exercise 150 minutes a week than those without fur babies.

Here's what you need to know.

It's heartening exercise. "Walking your dog every day has been proven to increase cardiovascular fitness by reducing obesity and boosting muscle power and endurance," explains Dr. Paley. Specifically, you might reduce your risk of developing coronary artery disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, strokes, Type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, and even some cancers.

It helps you stay on an exercise schedule. The World Health Organization recommends 30 minutes of moderate to intense exercise five days every week—and Dr. Paley suggests the same with a dog. As for



timing your workouts, choose what's best for you. "There are different ways to go about it—you may pick a 10-minute morning walk and then a 20-minute romp at the dog park after work," he says. Or three 10-minute walks might work better. But whatever

you do, strive to create a routine. "If dog walking is scheduled, you'll feel more responsible for sticking with it and your dog will get used to it and even remind you when it's time to go out," he adds.

It's a great stress buster. Truth: Walking your dog is almost as beneficial as a day at the spa! "Dog walking can reduce the physiological indicators of stress, including high blood pressure. And the nonjudgmental companionship and unconditional love offered by pets has considerable mental health benefits for owners, including increased self-esteem and reduced incidence of depression," says Dr. Paley.

It helps you be more social. Getting out with your dog may also widen your circle of friends. "People who walk their dogs are seen by others as friendly and approachable, and this activity allows you to meet new people in a casual setting," Dr. Paley says.



Dr. Ari J. Paley

Supporting Documentation

WP HOSPITAL MAGAZINE FALL 2017 ISSUE

<http://www.doodycalls.com/blog/ten-tips-for-planning-and-building-a-dog-park-in-your-co>

<https://patch.com/new-york/scarsdale/every-dog-has-its-day-not-yet-scarsdale>

<http://realtormag.realtor.org/home-and-design/feature/article/2016/01/power-pets>

<https://www.nar.realtor/sites/default/files/reports/2017/2017-remodeling-impact-animals-ir-homes-02-13-2017.pdf>

<http://www.westondogpark.org/why-a-dog-park.html>

<https://www.realtor.com/advice/buy/neighborhood-features-ranked/>

<https://www.mediapost.com/publications/article/314814/millennials-are-obsessed-with-pe>

</http://time.com/money/4876151/millennials-homes-dogs-children-marriages>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/business/real-estate/one-big-reason-millennials-are-buying-hon-n790921>

Town of Lewisboro Dog Park Proposal

Contact info:

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Prepared with the help of Jean Dalton