

# Rocky Hill Group Seeks Dog Park

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August 22, 2008

ROCKY HILL —

Other towns have one or are getting one. Now, some residents in town want one, too.

Tired of taking their dogs to Wethersfield's dog park, residents have banded together to raise money to build a dog park in town where their pooches can roam free."

Dog parks are great, and they aren't only for dogs. They are a great place for people to socialize," said Chris S. Rusack, a recreation supervisor with the town's parks and recreation department.

About 10 residents, calling themselves the Rocky Hill Dog Park Committee, are trying to raise about \$50,000 to build a park. The volunteers have raised roughly \$5,000 in a few months, mainly through T-shirt sales and a doggie walk-a-thon held with the [Labs4rescue](#) organization in June at Elm Ridge Park.

Town Manager Barbara Gilbert said the desire for a dog park is great among residents and dog owners in town.

"We have a core group of people who would like a place to take their dogs. They know it's something the town can't fund and they are more than willing to raise the money," Gilbert said.

The group will go before the town council on Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. in town hall to present their vision for the park. The council would have to approve the project and set aside a piece of town-owned land for the park. The group must also get approval from land-use boards.

Connecticut towns that have created dog parks include Avon, Wethersfield, Branford, Granby, Groton, Hamden, Norwich and South Windsor. The parks are usually built on town-owned land and maintained by users who form a committee.

Livia Jacobs, a recreation supervisor with the town's parks and recreation department, said the bulk of the money the committee is raising will pay for fencing around the park, which will have gated sections for smaller and larger dogs.

The group will host its next fundraiser, a Dog Day Festival, on Sept 13 from noon to 4 p.m. at Best Friends Pet Care on the Silas Deane Highway.

To get involved or for more information, contact the parks and recreation department at 860-258-2772.