

# Jester designated as city's first dog park location

By Michael Kormos | Posted: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 11:14 am



## 12-31-15 Dog Park 1.jpg

Image courtesy/Tom Miles This 3-D rendering shows preliminary plans for the Bark Park to be located in Jester Park in Corsicana. Plans include fencing, shaded shelters and water fountains.

Dog lovers rejoiced Monday night after a long awaited decision by the Corsicana City Council that was met with applause. The council designated a location within Jester Park as Corsicana's first dog park.

"We are so excited," Marsha McAlister, Humane Society secretary said. "This has just been a dream and now it's going to happen thanks to the City Council."

There was a choice between I.O.O.F. Park and Jester and a workshop was held prior to the council meeting to discuss which area was more appropriate.

“The Corsicana Parks and Recreation Department is excited that the City Council approved a small portion of Jester Park to be designated as a dog park,” Sharla Allen, Parks and Recreation director said. “A special thank you goes to Marsha McAlister and the Navarro County Humane Society for all of their hard work. The goal of this dog park development is to provide an excellent source of dog social interaction, but they aren't the only ones that enjoy the park, people do, too. The Bark Park will be divided into two sections and allow small and larger dogs to zoom around off leash until their little dog hearts are content. There will be a posted set of rules for all that enter. The park will be built by the Humane Society of Navarro County in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department.”

The Bark Park must be completely funded before groundbreaking begins. McAlister said much of the funding for the construction of the park had been donated, along with proceeds from a grant for the project, and preliminary plans drawn up to build the park.

“Every penny that is going into construction is going to be done through fundraising. For a \$50 donation pet owners will receive 4x6 plaque to be attached to a five-foot section of fence when the Bark Park is completed,” McAlister said. “The plaque will serve to honor a pet they have lost.”

Plans for the Bark Park include fencing, shade shelters and drinking fountains.

The Bark Park will be open daily 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Dogs and children must be supervised at all times. Any Dogs left unattended will be considered “running at large” and will be removed by Animal Control. All dogs must be current on vaccinations, including rabies and have a city registration.

The following will not be allowed in the dog park: “In heat” females or unaltered males; puppies under six months old; people food, dog food and treats; smoking alcoholic beverages or glass containers; wading pools of any size; any animal other than dogs and allowing dogs to dig near fence lines.

Dogs must be leashed upon entering and exiting the park and must be socialized and non-aggressive. Owners must clean up any feces.

For more information contact The City of Corsicana Parks and Recreation Department at 903-654-4874. To make a donation contact the Humane Society of Navarro County at 903-875-1060.

Chuck McClanahan, Mayor of Corsicana, also appointed John McClung to the Animal Services Board to fill the unexpired term of Tom Wilson.

Other items approved by the City Council on Monday night's agenda included:

- An application for a historic downtown district tax freeze for 120 West Sixth Avenue.
- Ratification of an electric service contract with Direct Energy Company, LLC.

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