

Fairfield wants to give dogs someplace to play

Sue Kiesewetter, Enquirer Contributor Published 3:45 a.m. ET Feb. 28, 2018



Marley, left, and Thor, right, play tug of war at the Broad Ripple Dog Park in Indianapolis on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017. (Photo: Michelle Pemberton/IndyStar)

FAIRFIELD – Seven acres near Marsh Park will become the home of Fairfield’s first park dedicated to man’s best friend.

Planned for the west side of River Road, about one-third mile south of Gray Road, the dog park would also serve as a trailhead for an extension of the future Great Miami River Trail hike/bike path.

The dog park, trailhead and trail extension are part of the city’s Marsh Park Corridor master plan.

“Trails and a dog park are always on the top of surveys we do,” said Ben Mann, the city’s engineer who is overseeing the project.

The conceptual plan, created by consultants Strand Associates Inc., also includes pre-fabricated restroom facilities that would be built up because the site sits in a floodplain.



Here is a schematic drawing of what Fairfield's first dog park could look like. It includes separate fenced areas for large dogs, small dogs and a combined area for all dogs with a pond. (Photo: Provided drawing.)

The land would be divided into an area for large dogs, another field for small dogs, a combined space for all dogs, and a fourth field that would be used when the other fields were closed for maintenance.

The trail extension from Waterworks Park would go through and around the dog park along the Great Miami River to Marsh Park and then south to Hamilton County. There is no timetable yet for that but the city is exploring grant opportunities.

Each of the fenced dog areas would include play features for the animals. The pond would be about 100 feet wide, and up to 4 feet deep with zero depth entrance.

There would be a jumping dock, bubbler fountain, shallow play stream and a dual drinking fountain for humans and dogs.

Parking for 20 vehicles is included in the plan with an overflow area that could be paved when needed. Future items for the site not included in the initial project include an overlook, River Road pedestrian crossing, and signage.



A water fountain is proposed for the dog park in Fairfield. The top two fountains are for humans, the bottom right, for dogs. (Photo: Provided)

A covered, central gathering space would provide shade, access to the dog fields and parking area, along with access to the bike/hike path, Mann said.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$900,000 to \$950,000, which would come from the city's capital improvement program fund.

Mann said the project is included in this year's list of improvements that City Council will review at its April 9 council-manager briefing and vote on in late April or early May.

Once approved, final, detailed plans for the park and trailhead will be developed with construction possible this fall and a spring 2019 opening, Mann said.



Fairfield plans to build a dog park on a 7-acre site on the west side of River Road, just south of Gray Road. (Photo: Provided photo)