



Contact: Jim Hettleman  
Fundraising Chair, Canton Dog Park  
e-mail [info@cantondogpark.org](mailto:info@cantondogpark.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SEN. JOSEPH BONVEGNA FIELD TO BECOME BALTIMORE CITY'S LARGEST OFF-LEASH DOG PARK**

Canton Dog Park to convert field into an off-leash, fenced-in dog park for summer fundraising event

On Saturday, August 28, 2010, the Canton Dog Park presents The Dog Days of Summer fundraising event from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Canton Dog Park in Baltimore City and the Sen. Joseph Bonvegna Field located next to it. Admission is \$5 per person, dogs and children under 16 years of age are free but must be accompanied by an adult. Proceeds from the event go toward renovating the dog park.

The Dog Days of Summer event is intended for dogs of all sizes and breeds and their owners from Baltimore City and surrounding counties who want to enjoy a fun day together in a safe, open but fenced-in environment in the city. Within the gates of the Canton Dog Park, the space will be turned into an on-leash site for dog-related vendors – as well as dog-friendly vendors - to promote, sell, and demonstrate their wares to those in attendance. There will also be plans and drawings of the proposed renovation to the Canton Dog Park. Beyond the gates into the Sen. Joseph Bonvegna Field, leashes can be removed for dogs and their owners to run, play, and socialize in a field measuring 110 yards by 70 yards. Please note that during this event all dogs will be gathering in the same space - there will be no separate areas for large dogs and small dogs.

To ensure the safety of dogs and their human companion(s) at the event, there will be a list of rules to abide by. All dogs must be spayed or neutered. No more than 2 dogs will be allowed per person. Dogs showing aggression toward people or other dogs must be removed from the park immediately. Dog handlers must pick up and throw away dog poop. Dogs must be wearing a collar at all times; spiked or pronged collars are not allowed as they may injure other dogs during play. Human food is not permitted in the park at any time. Though pet food may be sold by vendors in the on-leash area, it may not be opened or brought into the off-leash area. No toys of any kind are permitted in the off-leash area; balls will be provided inside. Volunteers will be spread throughout the event to help enforce these rules and respond to any issues that may arise during the event.

The Canton Dog Park is one of two off-leash dog parks in Baltimore City and is part of the Canton Community Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In 2000, Baltimore City granted permission for the community to construct a dog park at its current location on the corner of S. Clinton and Toone Streets. The Park relies on private funding for ongoing operating and maintenance expenses as it does not receive funding from Baltimore City government. Because of the lack of other dog parks and the subsequent increase in use of the Canton Dog Park, renovations are needed to keep the park functional and comply with environmental standards set by the city and state.

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For more information about this event, please contact Jim Hettleman, Fundraising Chair, via e-mail at [info@cantondogpark.org](mailto:info@cantondogpark.org). For more information on the Canton Dog Park, log on to [www.cantondogpark.org](http://www.cantondogpark.org).