

# A Dog Park in Auburn

Presentation by Jacqui Empson Laporte  
On Behalf of Residents in Central Huron,  
North Huron and ACW

# Sincerest Apologies

In response to my lack of attendance at the September Council meeting, I can only beg forgiveness.

I had mistaken the date of the meeting and was busy getting ready for staffing and displays at the Outdoor Farm Show and International Plowing Match and Rural Expo.

Please accept my apologies and be assured that there was no disrespect intended. This issue is important to me, otherwise I would not have put this much effort into it to date.

# What is a Dog Park?

- An off-leash, fenced area where dogs can run freely in a community setting
- It is NOT:
  - A kennel
  - Longer term housing where animals left unattended

# Why a Dog Park?

Pros	Cons
Promotes responsible pet ownership	Should not be used as substitutes for regular walks for animals
Give dogs a place to exercise safely, reducing barking and other problem behaviours	People should know their dog's tolerance for other dogs when entering the park in groups
Provide seniors and other owners an accessible place to exercise companions	People must clean up after their pet
Provides opportunities to enhance use of the park facilities	People must ensure their pets are vaccinated to prevent transmission of illnesses: Spayed/neutered animals ideal

## Statistics:

- **By our estimates, there are about 45 dogs within the village**
- Central Huron sells 13 dog tags in Auburn
- Estimates for ACW and North Huron roughly equal

# Proposal

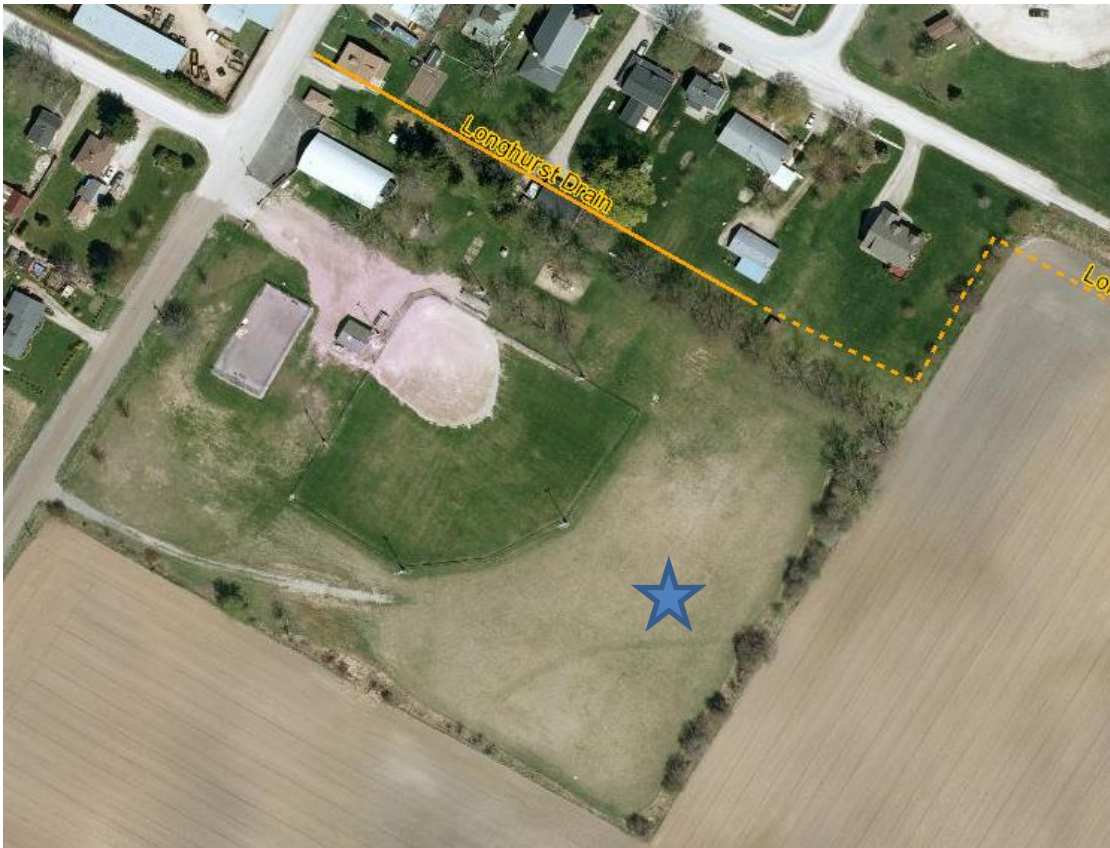
- Dog Park to be located at the site of the Auburn Hall, behind the ball diamond
- Fenced area of two runs with double gate
- Sized appropriately for easy maintenance (grass cutting)
- Posted sign with dog park rules
- Garbage can for waste
- Surrounded by native trees and shrubs for aesthetics

# Recommendations of Animal Control

- Must have a double gate
  - So dogs in the park don't escape when new dogs enter
- Should have 2 runs with small and large dogs separated
- Must have a bag dispenser and garbage can
- Must have sign with rules of use
- Must use a fencing type so that dogs don't get their heads caught

# Preferred Location

- Behind left field of the ball diamond

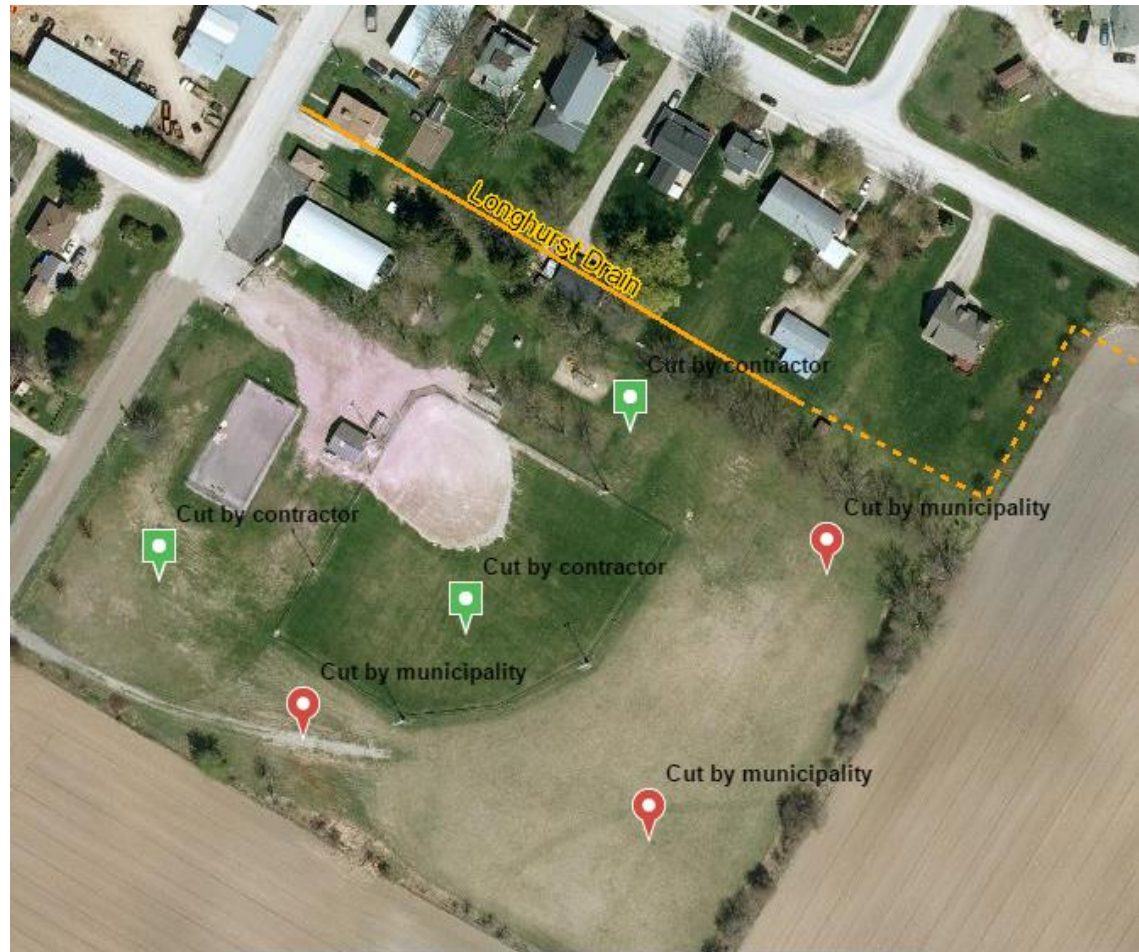


**Final design  
not yet  
completed –  
based on  
discussions  
with  
residents,  
animal  
control and  
Public  
Works**

# Grass Cutting

Ideally the size, shape and location of the dog park would have regard for whoever was responsible for cutting the grass in the field

Currently, grass is cut by municipal staff and a contractor

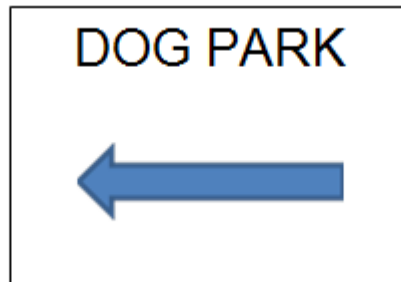
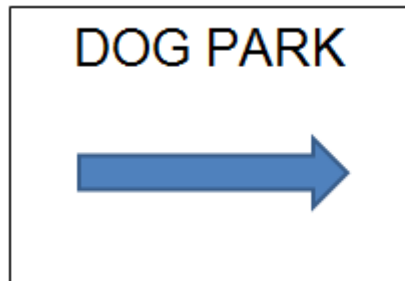




# Partner Funding and Resources

- **Some financial donations and support already accounted for**
  - **Donations from residents, Auburn Lions Club, OPSEU Local 121 and Huron Bay Farm Supply**
  - **Commitment by Central Huron and ACW to assist with costs of installing the posts**
  - **Fencing to be done by volunteers or through donations**
- **Request to Auburn Horticulture Society to donate native trees and shrubs from Maitland Valley**
  - **With regard for the drain and septic system**
- **In-kind resources include:**
  - **Labour to help install the fence or sign**
  - **Empty garbage can on regular basis**
  - **Plant trees and shrubs around the site**

# Signage



# Request of North Huron

- Assist Central Huron and ACW in the costs of installing the cedar posts in the dog park
  - Proportional to the existing agreements for sharing of costs at the municipal area

# Status Update as of September 30

- Central Huron recommending adoption of proposal (pending agreement of final design and quote from fencing companies) – **mid-October**
- Final design location chosen – **Beginning of October**
- Adopt-A-Post Fundraiser on-going to final construction
- Installation of posts – end of October
- Fencing, gates and signs installed – End of November

# Commitment from Me

- There is no formal “committee” in Auburn – only a group of residents interested in seeing park completed
  - Most communication through Facebook Community Events page
- Each dog park location is different, so exact comparisons or duplicated plans not possible; Depends on:
  - Owner of the land
  - Surrounding land uses – residential or park areas, lighting, accessibility
  - Maintenance such as grass cutting, drainage and garbage
  - Community groups and fundraising requirements and efforts
- Will share information with any one regarding quotes, Dog Park rules, signage, review of existing dogs parks, and fundraising ideas
  - Seaforth, Lucan and Goderich