



Questions and Answers about MayDOG

October 28, 2008

For more information:
MayDOG, the Maynard Dog Owners Group, Inc.
www.maydog.org



What is MayDOG?

- MayDOG is the Maynard Dog Owners Group, a new community organization in Maynard, MA that is dedicated to promoting responsible dog ownership and safe, legal off-leash recreation in Maynard and the surrounding communities
- We are incorporated as a not-for-profit under Chapter 180 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- MayDOG is registered with the state as a public charity and has a current certificate for soliciting donations

What does MayDOG want to do?

- We would like to establish an off-leash recreation area (OLRA) in Maynard
- A dog park would have numerous benefits to dog owners AND non-dog owners alike
 - A tired dog is a good dog. Providing opportunities for off-leash play means dogs are better behaved (less nuisance barking and other problematic behaviors)
 - Dog parks are often very popular places with regular visitors who get to know each other and develop bonds
 - Dog parks can increase property values, bring visitors to town who patronize town businesses, and attract new residents
 - A dog park would improve the reputation of Maynard as a unique “micro-urban” town with lots of amenities

What community support exists?

- Hundreds of petition signatures
- Over 50 members
- Hundreds of dollars in donations
- Enthusiastic reactions from nearly everyone who hears about it (including non-dog owners)
- Local businesses support the idea

Where could we put a dog park?

- Our first choice would be the former landfill on Waltham Street
 - 13 acres owned by the town and zoned for passive recreation
 - No other viable competing proposals that we know of – ball fields would be too expensive and housing is unlikely to be feasible
 - Meets multiple objectives in the 2007 Community Preservation Plan and the 2004 Open Space and Recreation Plan
 - Protects the view of the open space visible from the street
 - Plenty of room for both a fenced area and other recreation, such as a walking/cross-country trail (.5 mile perimeter)
 - Develops an unused parcel into a well-used recreation area
 - Few residences within earshot of the site
 - Provides an attractive amenity to apartment-dwelling dog owners across the street

What are some concerns about the idea?

- Landfill safety
 - Gerry Collins of the Maynard Board of Health has said that there are no known health risks
 - Many former landfills have been turned into parks without problems
- Budget concerns
 - Creating the park may require public and private funds (e.g., CPA grant, private donations)
 - Additional costs to the town could include emptying the trash barrels and more frequent mowing/spreading wood chips
 - Private groups (such as the Scouts) could help with creation and maintenance of trails and other park amenities
 - Dog park could require a yearly fee
 - Question of fairness — what other kinds of local parks collect fees from users to pay for maintenance?

Concerns, cont.

- Perception of valuing dogs over people
 - “Town needs more facilities for children/teenagers”
 - We believe that it’s not either/or — we can have both
 - Objection to the idea of a “park for dogs”
 - Park is for people, not dogs
- Dog owners are taxpayers deserving of recreational facilities as much as other constituencies
 - An estimated 20% of Maynardites have dogs, more than the percentage of households that have school-age children (17%) and almost certainly more than the percentage that engages in any of the sports for which facilities exist in Maynard
 - Dog parks are typically used by many people every day of the year, unlike many park facilities
- Legal liability
 - Other dog parks have signs informing users that they are financially and legally responsible for any injury caused by their dog

What's on MayDOG's wish list?

- Find town official(s) to champion the proposal
- Designation of landfill site as off-leash area
 - Requires town meeting approval?
- Staged installation/construction of park as funds permit
 - Fenced area — at least 2 acres would be ideal
 - Separate small dog/large dog areas
 - Double-gated entryway
 - Bag stations and trash receptacles
 - Signage
 - Kiosk/bulletin board – place to recognize large donors and publicize rules
 - Cross-country trail around perimeter
 - Benches/picnic area at “summit” and inside fenced area
 - Water fountain for pets and people (or just a spigot for filling bowls)

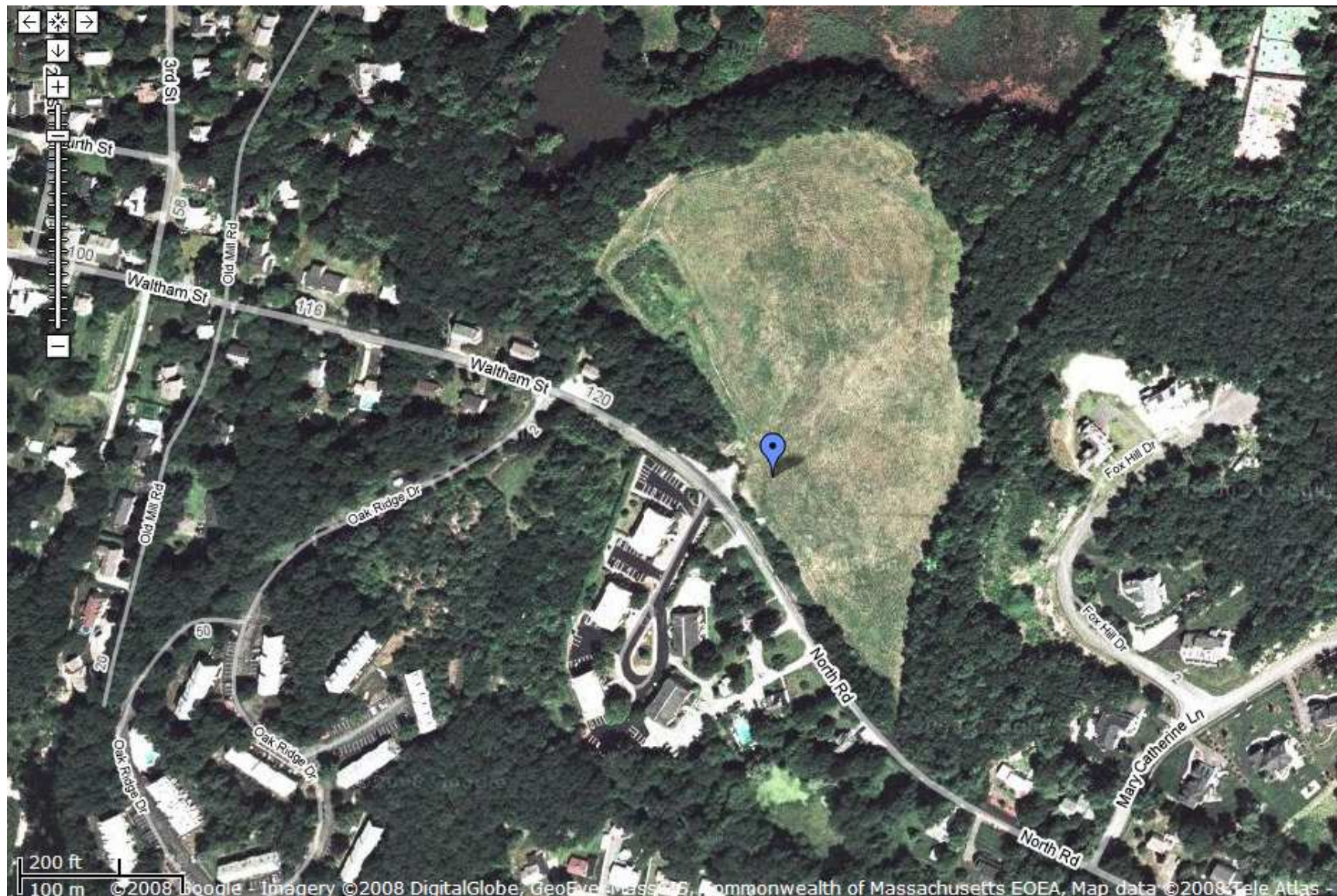
Landfill site today



Landfill site today



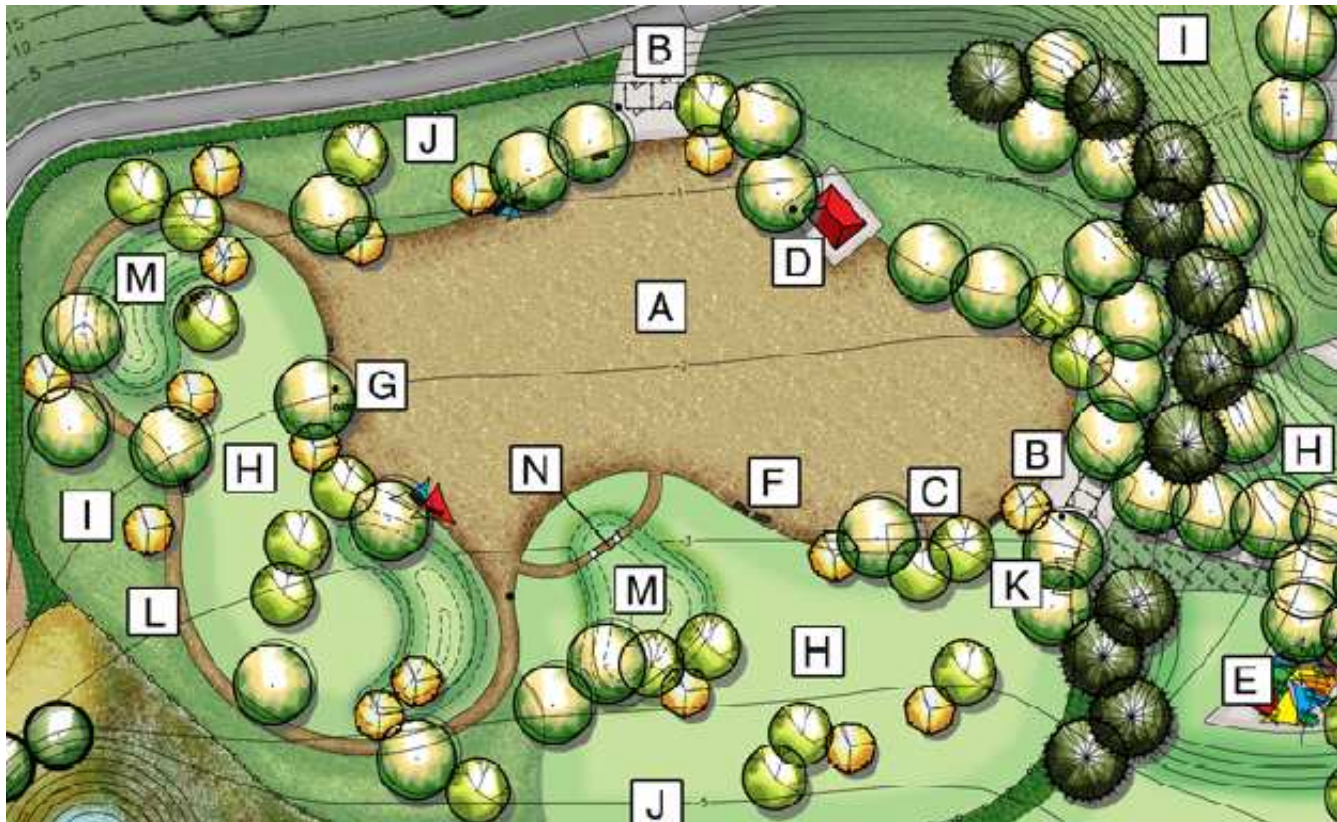
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Photos and site plans from other parks

Sample site plan



City of Sacramento – Granite Park

http://www.cityofsacramento.org/parksandrecreation/parks/sites/pdf/granitephase2_plan.pdf

- A. Decomposed granite play area
- B. Double-gated entry
- C. Pea gravel dog wash area
- D. Shade structure and bulletin board
- E. Picnic area with shade structure
- F. Bench
- G. Bi-level drinking fountain
- H. Mowed turf area
- I. Irrigated unmowed grass
- J. 4-foot fence
- K. Maintenance access gate
- L. Decomposed granite walking path
- M. Turf berm
- N. Play feature

Bag dispensers



Newton, MA



Encinitas, CA

Fundraising and donor recognition



Boston, MA

Gates and fences



Boston, MA



Waukesha, WI



Encinitas, CA



Saugus, MA

Seating



Long Beach, CA



Saugus, MA

Structures



Los Angeles, CA



Encinitas, CA



Boston, MA

Water



Columbia, SC



Boston, MA