



# PAW POINT

• AT ROBERT E. LEE PARK •

# MEMBER NEWS



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Robert E Lee Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 2, 9:00am-3:30pm

*Fundraiser event for Guilford Garden Club and Robert E Lee Park Nature Council.*

### Dogs & Donuts + Cleanup Day

Saturday, May 16, 10:00am-

12:00pm @ Paw Point Dog Park

*Get to know all of our members and help clean up the dog park.*

### Bark with a Park Ranger

Saturday, August 15, 7:30pm-9:30pm

*Join rangers on a night hike. Children must be accompanied by an adult. One dog on leash per adult. \$3 per person.*

# Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Paw Point

In 2005-2006, Baltimore City made an offer to turn over the over 500 acres that make up Robert E. Lee Park to Baltimore County. Soon thereafter the Robert E. Lee Park Committee was formed and started its work with a “blank slate”, examining the total potential of the park.

The goal of the committee was to identify the numerous issues with the existing park and begin developing strategies to aid in alleviating many of the problems that had plagued

We Want To Hear  
From You!



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Your opinion matters!  
What do you want to see in the  
next newsletter or at Paw Point?





**Paw Point Was Voted  
Best Dog Park in  
Baltimore**



**COMING SOON!**

**Robert E Lee Park  
Nature and  
Environmental  
Education Center**

Continued

the park. The primary objective chosen was to restore the park to its former glory - a park everyone in the community, young and old, could enjoy.

It soon became apparent to the committee that the off-leash dog issue solicited a great deal of examination. The committee recognized the need for dogs to exercise, but the unregulated and uncontrolled actions of some dog owners inhibited the use of the park by many others. There were many reports of dogs off-leash, dog on dog attacks, dogs attacking and harassing trail users. It was determined that the park user should not have to be concerned about loose dogs and the unsafe levels of contamination (dog feces) in the soil of the general park. At this point it was decided that some type of enclosed

area for dogs would be a necessary element of the park plan.

By 2009, the state and county bond funds for development became available and Baltimore County assumed full control of the park. The official Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council (RELPNC) was formed and in October 2010 the Paw Point Dog Park Committee, a sub-committee of Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council was officially launched.

In early 2010, the county selected the one-acre site located on the peninsula and the design, construction (including controlled water access) and erosion improvements were initiated.

The Paw Point Dog Park Committee conducted site visits to other state dog

## Continued

parks examining policies and procedures for the new dog park. During the construction phase of the dog park the committee, in partnership with Baltimore County, was busy developing the rules and regulations unique to this site, creating membership policy, fees, forms and park signage.

The committee was very fortunate to have TB&C (Trahan, Burden and Charles), a full service Baltimore ad agency volunteer their services, providing branding and website development. The final outcome of their work being the Paw Point identity.

After all of the many, many hours involved in putting Paw Point together, it officially opened to its members on October 15, 2011.

Since that day Paw Point has grown to an annual membership of over 1200 and has evolved into the most accommodating and vibrant off-leash dog park in Baltimore County.

Paw Point and Robert E. Lee Park provide many assets for you and your dog – dedicated water access, the security of the Robert E. Lee Park Rangers, light rail access, the use of over 50 miles of on-leash walking trails and convenient parking.

Many thanks to the volunteers who spent countless hours planning and managing Paw Point over the past five years. ~

*~ Happy Anniversary Paw Point!*

## PHOTO CONTEST

### Getting To Know You!

Submit a picture on our [facebook](#) page about your dog and what you love about him! We may feature your dog in our next newsletter.



# Sodding Project Update

*Our goal is to keep the park facility safe.... while enhancing its beauty and sustainability.*



Paw Point  
Volunteers  
November 2014

Paw Point, our 1 acre off-leash, community-supported dog park, provides many benefits. Foremost is the opportunity for dogs to socialize off-leash, swim and play. Our goal is to keep the park facility safe for dogs while enhancing its beauty and sustainability.

Most of Paw Point is on sloped terrain. An ongoing task we faced during numerous cleanup weekends was to remove the soil, leaves and mulch that had settled by the

fountain and water park entrance. The area around the pump and water fountain was covered with mud, presenting a constant challenge to keep the dogs clean and safe.

After much discussion, it was decided that laying a highly durable sports sod on the area above the fountain would be the best option to solve the erosion problem. On two weekends last November 8 and 9, 15 and 16, we welcomed over 40

volunteers to help realize this project. These included Paw Point members, our Paw Point Committee, the RELPNC board members, RELPNC Trails Committee, and park rangers. A temporary fence was installed to demarcate the area and keep dogs safely away from work area. In



*Did You Know?* Volunteers spend an average of 60 hours per month maintaining Paw Point Dog Park.

*We anticipate opening the sod area in May 2015, weather permitting.*

In addition, it protects the sod from foot (or paw) traffic, while establishing the root system. The volunteers spent the first weekend amending the soil, prepping and grading the projected work area. While preparing the soil, the area was graded to allow for a gentler slope. The following weekend, 8,000 square feet or 16 pallets of Maryland grown sod was laid. The remaining areas of the park were aerated and over seeded.

Future maintenance will include annual aeration and over seeding. Since the park is open year round, from sunrise to sunset, we anticipate the need to identify additional areas in Paw Point that will benefit from sod.

We have learned a lot from this project, our largest one to date. Careful planning by the Paw Point Committee and Paw Point member's volunteer support along with RELPNC volunteers, are a successful combination we can replicate elsewhere in the park. This could extend our presence, as we are a positive feature, onto the peninsula. Future activities could include annual aeration and over seeding between the ranger station and the dog park. Other areas include the playground and camping near the butterfly enclosure. It will be a great way to keep up with the ever-increasing amount of patron traffic as the park becomes more popular with a variety of users. ~

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Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/PawPointDogPark>

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