



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND OPENING **OF THE LARRY R. FABRIZI DOG PARK**

ERIE, PA (July 22, 2015) - McClelland Park is our largest city park having a total of 56 acres. In 2006 the neighbors requested to work with the City of Erie to create a Master Plan. The Master Plan took 3 years to complete with participation from Burton-Diehl Neighborhood Organization, the Lake Erie Region Conservancy (LERC), Mercyhurst University, the City of Erie School District, St. Luke's School and the general public.

The Master Plan was broken into Phases, to make it more feasible to be able to fund one amenity at a time. The most critical amenity was creating an Entrance Drive which allows access into the park. Thanks to \$40,000 from the Erie County Greenways Program, the asphalt access drive and loop-around parking area were installed in conjunction with fencing for the three acre dog park enclosure.

This initial critical access drive was designed by our Bureau of Engineering and installed by our Bureau of Streets with help from the Bureau of Parks & Recreation. This was the key element that was needed before anything else could be considered. The dog park enclosure was chosen as the second amenity in the Master Plan to be implemented. Dog park enclosures are safe, spaces within city parks, where people take their dogs to exercise, play, socialize, and have fun without wearing a leash.

Friends of Larry R. Fabrizi approached the city and offered to assist in finding funding and resources for the dog park. By partnering with Preservation Erie, the Friends of Larry R. Fabrizi, the City of Erie and the Burton-Diehl Neighborhood Organization they received a \$9,387 grant from the Erie County Gaming Authority to install dog agility equipment. Three pieces of agility equipment and one doggie waste station were purchased for each side of the dog park. These pieces were chosen with care after consulting with pet owners and dog care professionals for their usefulness, practicality and ease of maintenance.

Thanks to this grant, the Friends of the Larry R. Fabrizi Dog Park group have solidified themselves as an active and organized group. They brought together surrounding neighbors, dog park supporters, dog care professionals, interested citizens, City Council, and the City of Erie Administration to achieve the primary goal of providing a dog park facility for the dogs and dog lovers throughout our community.

Our goal is to foster the partnerships that we have made as we move forward and continue to provide a safe, clean, dog park facility for our community. Having safe, outdoor, recreation spaces improves the quality of life for people and pets. Now, all the residents of Erie and the surrounding communities have access to a free and public dog park!

MCCLELLAND PARK PARTNERS:

Burton-Diehl Neighborhood Organization
City of Erie School District
Environment Erie
Friends of the Larry R. Fabrizi Dog Park
Lake Erie Region Conservancy
Mercyhurst University
Preservation Erie
Sisters of Mercy

FUNDING SOURCES:

Erie County Greenways Program
ECGRA- Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Previous Master Plan Grant was Funded by the PA DCNR- Keystone Parks and Recreation Program

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

Master Plan
Driveway and Loop-around Parking Area
Larry R. Fabrizi Dog Park

POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS:

Drinking Water Facilities
Pavilion
Playground
Trail System
Stream Restoration