



# News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MAYOR SUTTLE JOINS OMAHA DOG PARK ADVOCATES AND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS FOR GRAND OPENING OF HANSCOM BARK PARK NOVEMBER 19**

OMAHA, Neb., October 27, 2011 – Omaha Dog Park Advocates announced today the Hanscom Bark Park, the city's newest off-leash dog park, will officially open on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011 in Hanscom Park at 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Woolworth Ave. in Midtown Omaha. At noon on Saturday, Nov. 19, Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle, members of Omaha Parks & Recreation, Hanscom Park Neighborhood Association and Ford Birthsite Neighborhood Association members, along with other distinguished guests will be in attendance to cut the ribbon on the entrance to Hanscom Bark Park. Other neighboring communities are also encouraged to attend.

“We are really excited to open the city's second official off-leash dog park in Hanscom Park,” states Bridget Jansen, president of Omaha Dog Park Advocates. “We've worked collaboratively over the past nine months with the city and surrounding communities, and are thrilled to provide a midtown location where residents can bring their dogs for exercise and socialization in a safe environment.” Prior to efforts to open a second park within the city, the only other dog park available to residents is located at Hefflinger Park in West Omaha, a 20-30 minute commute for midtown and downtown residents.

## OMAHA DOG PARK ADVOCATES

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“Having a dog park in Hanscom Park is the result of the Hanscom Park Neighborhood Association working with Ford Birthsite Neighborhood Association and the city of Omaha to scope out the feasibility and make it happen,” states Mike Battershell, president of Hanscom Park Neighborhood Association. “We could not have done this without the support of our organizations working hand in hand with the city and with Omaha Dog Park Advocates to bring this dream to life.” Both Hanscom Park and Ford Birthsite Neighborhood Associations were recipients of the 2011 Mayor’s Neighborhood Grants to build a dog park in Hanscom Park’s underutilized north side.

“The Hanscom Bark Park will be a wonderful addition to our community, helping to breathe additional life into one of Omaha’s most historic neighborhoods,” added Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle. “The Mayor’s neighborhood grant program seeks to revitalize and beautify our city’s neighborhoods, and we were excited to fund a portion of the Hanscom Bark Park helping make midtown Omaha an even better place to live, work and play.”

In addition to the ribbon cutting ceremony held at noon on Saturday, Nov. 19, the surrounding neighborhoods will also host a Chili Feed fund raiser at the Hanscom Park Pavilion immediately following the ceremony. Further, various supporters of Omaha Dog Park Advocates will be on hand offering free giveaways and information on pet and dog services in and around midtown Omaha. Proceeds raised from the Chili Feed will directly contribute to the maintenance and upkeep for Hanscom Bark Park.

Omaha Dog Park Advocates is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization focused on the development, operation and maintenance, for and on behalf of the general public, public off-leash dog areas on city-owned public park land, including Hefflinger and Hanscom Parks. The Hanscom Bark Park aims to mobilize neighborhoods and surrounding communities in a volunteer effort spearheaded in partnership with the Omaha Dog Park Advocates (ODPA), Hanscom Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA), and Ford Birthsite Neighborhood Association (FBNA) to ensure upkeep and maintenance of the park as its popularity and benefit to the community continues to grow and sustain as a vital destination within Hanscom Park. For more information, please visit us at [www.omahadogpark.org](http://www.omahadogpark.org).

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