

Towson Life

The key to your community

Community Ranked As Exciting
NO ORDINARY SUBURB
Dogs Find Fun at Paw Point
RUNNING FREE
Downtown's Big Party
SPRING FESTIVAL

April 2014

Landmark Restored

Sheppard Pratt Gives Its Historic Gatehouse a Face Lift

Running Free in Paw Point

Not far from Towson, an acre of fully-fenced urban park land caters to dogs wanting to exercise off-leash and even take a swim.



"All the dogs I've had encounters with have been great," said dog owner and Paw Point member Sean Flanigan. "They get a chance to get out and run and not just walk on a leash."

Photo courtesy of Robert E. Lee Park

*Information provided
by Robert E. Lee Park Staff*

Robert E. Lee Park is an urban park that is a welcoming place for dogs on leash. It also contains a park within the park called Paw Point where dogs can run free. Paw Point is a membership-only dog park located near the stone pavilion and across the lake from Robert E. Lee Park's main parking lot on Lakeside Drive. It is the only area within the park where dogs are allowed off-leash.

A membership to the dog park costs \$35 annually and allows for two dogs in the same household. One person may only bring two dogs into Paw Point at a time. An additional handler would need to be present for the additional dogs.

All Paw Point canine members are required to be current with city/county vaccinations and license, and rabies and license tags must be attached to dogs' collars at all times.

The membership year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31 of the same year.

Paw Point is accessible from the park's main entrance on Lakeside Drive. Boardwalk access to the park is also available from the Falls Road Light Rail station, which provides ample parking.

A community-supported dog park provides many benefits, first and foremost being a safe and controlled environment for dogs to play and exercise. Paw Point is a fully fenced, 1 acre, off-leash swim and play park.

Open year round, from sunrise to sunset, Paw Point is equipped with benches and bag dispensers for cleaning up dog

waste.

There is a code controlled, double gated entrance and access to a roped off area of Lake Roland for dogs to get wet and wild. During the winter months the water access is closed.

For safety reason, no one under the age of 12 is permitted inside Paw Point.

In 2012, Paw Point was a "Baltimore Magazine" Best of Baltimore winner and is currently up for nomination again.

Throughout the year, Paw Point hosts fun events for dogs and their owners. The Paw Point Committee puts on an event called Howloween when owners and their dog can come to the park in costume and enter a costume contest, with prizes, music and refreshments. It's a dog-gone good time.

Current members of Paw Point have given positive reviews about their experiences at the park.

Barry Greenberg, who owns dogs Calvin and Walter, said, "Dogs love the social aspect. It's so much more pleasant

at home when they're tired at the end of the day. It's a great addition to city living."

Sean Flanigan, with his dog Chip, a Border Terrier, said, "She loves running, it's a great open space for her to run. All the dogs I've had encounters with have been great. They get a chance to get out and run and not just walk on a leash."

Leslie Leitch, with her dog Dudley, a Wirehair Fox Terrier, said, "It is physically the most beautiful. [Dudley] has a great time ... he wishes he could come here more often. I love the meditation of it. The people that come here are respectful and responsible."

Leitch added, "Dudley has learned great dog behavior, great socialization and great behavior by mimicking the other dogs."

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The Paw Point committee consists of volunteers and they handle membership applications, which may take up to two weeks to process. Membership fees and donations are a primary source of funding for Paw Point.

For more information on Paw Point, go to pawpoint.org, or email pawpoint@pawpoint.org to explore volunteer opportunities.



Paw Point is open year-round, from sunrise to sunset.
Photo courtesy of Melissa Tillery

\$35

Annual fee to become a member of Paw Point, January 1 through December 31.

Membership facts: Dog owners who join Paw Point must register each of their dogs and have proof of current rabies vaccinations and a city or county license. Membership includes unlimited use, from sunrise to sunset, of Paw Point facilities for two dogs, water access, an electronic newsletter and advance notice of special events. Membership applications can be downloaded at pawpoint.org and mailed to park staff. —**Compiled by Jennifer Michael**

SWIM AND PLAY DOGS CAN TAKE A DIP

Not only can dogs run free in the grassy open space of Paw Point, they can also take a dip in the water. A portion of Lake Roland is roped off for dogs to get wet and wild.

Members are advised to use this area at their own risk. If a dog is a weak swimmer, the dog must use a canine life vest. If a dog has difficulty entering and exiting the water and is at-risk of harm, the water area should not be used. During poor weather and icing conditions, park rangers will use their discretion to close the water access area.

—**Compiled by Jennifer Michael**



Dogs can cool off in Paw Point's Lake Roland.
Photo courtesy of Robert E. Lee Park

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