

# THE Beacon-Villager

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## Wanted: Canine comfort zone

### Petitioners seek to establish dog park

By Meghan B. Kelly

Staff Writer

MAYNARD — The landfill on Waltham Street has long sat fallow. Closed for nearly 30 years, it's a large patch of land just sitting in Maynard, not really being used for anything.

Resident Lisa Lines would like to change that. She's recently started a dog owners' group, MayDOG, and first order of business is to use part of the old landfill as a fenced-in area for dogs to roam off-leash.

The premise of MayDOG, which is similar to other dog owners' groups such as somdog (Somerville) and cdog (Cambridge), is to promote responsible dog ownership and socializing dogs to be good "canine citizens," said

Lines.

On Monday afternoon, Lines showed up at the landfill with her two dogs, Sadie and Mollie, a Rotweiler/shepherd mix and a Labrador/hound mix, respectively, and discussed her ideas. Right now, her eyes rest on an unused part of the landfill, the flat area between Waltham Street and the large hillock covering the old trash.

Lines said she'd like to enclose about an acre, and divide it into two spaces: one for small dogs, and one for medium to larger dogs. Because it would be fenced, it would be a safe area for dogs to roam off-leash.

Dogs allowed to run around off-leash often end up better socialized,

#### ON THE WEB

Visit the Web site of MayDOG, the Maynard Dog Owners Group, at [maydogs.wordpress.com](http://maydogs.wordpress.com). The petition to get the off-leash recreation area at the landfill is at <http://www.petitiononline.com/maydog/petition.html>.

said Lines. Running around with other dogs also tires dogs out, adding truth to the maxim "A tired dog is a happy dog."

There's nowhere in Maynard where dogs can roam off-leash and dogs are forbidden from many areas all together, such as the wildlife refuge, said Lines. While nearby towns do have dog parks, not many of them are fenced. Lines said she just isn't comfortable taking the chance her dogs might run off into the woods or onto



Staff photo by Meghan B. Kelly

Some residents would like to convert this fallow land near the old landfill into a leash-optional dog park.

a busy road.

Lines said she's talked with the

Board of Health and any environmental groups. **Leash, Page**

# Will there be a leash-free zone?

**Leash, from Page 1**  
mental or health concerns shouldn't be a problem. The landfill was capped in 1985 and is monitored extensively by the town and state and federal environmental agencies.

Her plans also include forming a group of community enforcers, out of MayDOG, that would be in charge of regulating the dog park. Volunteers or "bark rangers" would enforce the rules about dog fighting or biting, as well ensuring people pick up after their dogs.

Lines has been scouting out similar groups in other towns for ideas for the Maynard park. One idea she liked was in Medway. The group there requires dog owners who want to use the park to provide a letter of reference from the dog's veterinarian, to ensure the dog is healthy and does not have any behavioral problems, said Lines.

Getting support from people in Maynard shouldn't be a problem, said Lines. It doesn't require a lot of money upfront and there are

a lot of dog owners in town who would likely welcome the idea, she said.

Lines is also circulating a petition, addressed to town officials, to advocate for the dog park. More information about the petition and the group in general will be available at MayDOG's first meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 30, 7 p.m., in the Cullen Room at the Maynard Public Library.

*Reporter Meghan B. Kelly can be reached at 978-371-5758 or [mkelly@cnc.com](mailto:mkelly@cnc.com).*