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Wayne County opens new Dog Park

WESTLAND -- On a sunny Thursday morning, they came with their owners and friends to test the wall jump, adjustable tire jump, hound hoop, agility walk ...and just to have a good time.

And judging by the pets' reaction, the grand opening of the Wayne County Parks' Dog Park in Hawthorne Ridge Park was a howling success.

The new three-acre Dog Park in Westland has been relocated to a more visible site off Hines Drive west of Merriman Road that has more shade and is closer to bathrooms and water. A park for dogs previously had been located in a more remote area of Hawthorne Ridge Park.

Using county parks' millage funds, the county also added new fencing, a new locking system and six agility stations.

Oliver, a 16-month-old yellow Labrador, was among the many appreciative visitors enjoying the new play area.

"This is like dogs going to Cedar Point," observed Oliver's owner, Kathlene Truchan of Dearborn Heights. Truchan said she brings Oliver to the park once or twice a week for up to two-hour visits.

"I'm like the mom in the dog park because I bring a diaper bag with wipes, water, baggies, bug spray..."



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, who cut a leash to officially open the Dog Park, said about 700 people have already registered their pets to use the facility.

A liability waiver and registration form must be completed prior to entering the park. Proof of vaccinations and a current dog license are required. Cost to register is \$5 and forms may be downloaded from the



Parks' website, www.waynecountyparks.org. Forms also are available weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Nankin Mills, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland.

Among the sponsors of the Dog Park grand opening were Petco, Michigan Humane Society, Walk the Dogs, Aussie Pet Mobile, The Perfect Pooch Training, K-9 Headquarters and Happy Howie's Dog Treats.

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Wayne County Photos by James Wallace