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For further information, contact:

Kelly McFalls

kmcfalls@framinghamma.gov

Tel (508) 532-5437

M (774) 285-1315

**Framingham Awarded \$23,426 Stanton Foundation Grant to
Begin Development of City's First Dog Park**

FRAMINGHAM, MA – The City confirmed that it has received a \$23,426 [Stanton Foundation](#) Grant to begin the design development of a dog park in Framingham, which is expected to be located in Farm Pond Park.

Using the grant, the City will procure a firm to create the dog park's final design and hold a public meeting to review the design and solicit feedback. After, Framingham will submit the final design proposal to the Stanton Foundation to ensure that grant requirements have been met and the project will be placed out to bid.

The Foundation will review the selected contractor's proposal and, upon approval, will award up to 90% of construction costs. The remainder of the cost will be paid through the Parks Department gift funds for the dog park and a potential Community Development Block Grant, submitted for FY22.

Shannon Stevens and FramBARK (community organization focused on bringing the first dog park to Framingham) initially started this process in 2015. Stevens has been instrumental in design development, community engagement, and grant preparation.

"With this award, the Division of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs, in partnership with FramBARK, will be in a position to begin final design and ultimately construction of the City's first dog park," said James Snyder, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs. "This project wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of Shannon Stevens, who has been critical to all facets of this effort. The Division is thrilled to be working with Ms. Stevens and FramBARK to bring a much-needed recreational amenity to the City at little cost to residents. This project helps to further both the Division's and City's goals identified within the Open Space and Recreation Plan as well as our long-term capital plan."

"With the news of this award, myself and all members of FramBARK, both past and present, are excited to see our vision for a dog park within the City moving closer to reality," said Shannon Stevens, Founder and President of FramBARK. "This has been a goal of mine and FramBARK's since 2015, and we are beyond proud that the Stanton Foundation has provided the City with design funding and project support. We are looking forward to the next steps and ready to continue moving this worthwhile project forward."

The City will begin its procurement process for the park's design immediately. If all goes to schedule, the final design could be complete by early fall of 2021.