

Mission Statement:

To maintain a fenced-in off-leash dog park where well behaved canine citizens can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering other canines, people or property or wildlife. To develop a beautiful and well-maintained space open to dog lovers and friends who are willing to uphold the park's rules and regulations. To develop the City of Smithville owned park and incorporate design features to satisfy the needs of dog owners and non-dog owners alike. To promote education, training and recreational activities that facilitate responsible dog ownership and better-behaved dogs through the use of volunteers and professional dog trainers.

Vision Statement:

Although the land has been approved for use for a dog park by the City of Smithville and the Union Pacific Railroad and the major projects to open the park have been realized, the Friends of the Bark Park will continue to work towards park and program development that will exceed the basic needs of park operations. The Friends of the Bark Park will continue to work towards park development that will set a standard for other parks to include possible shade structures, dog play structures, programming, fundraising, and promote involvement with other animal care related entities.

Goal Statements:

Long term goals: 5-10 years from date of August 2010

- To have both small and large dog play structures finished
- Successfully build all desired capital improvements – no further major developments needed to be realized
- To successfully have worked with five other Smithville area civic organizations on projects inside or outside the Bark Park that meet strategic planning goals of the Friends of the Bark Park and the City of Smithville

Short term goals: 1-5 years from date of August 2010

- Establish what kind of play structures are needed
- Plant trees for temporary long term shade
- Establish some sitting areas for dog owners
- Establish programming efforts that are weekly and seasonal
- Establish a yearly fundraising event
- Establish an organized volunteer group
- Build an informational kiosk for Bark Park happenings and post other useful animal related information

