



Hello SWCDP Members

We know every one is anticipating Spring Break – it is fast approaching. We are happy to announce SWCDP members will get a few extra days in 2014-2015 Season. Yeah!

Dog Park will close at 10:00pm, Easter Sunday, April 5

Applications for the new season will be available mid-late April, we will send to you via email; hard copies will be at our entry; or print from our website. Our newsletter should be reaching you before the end of March – and will have lots of great stories and good info, including suggestions for fun things you can do with your 4-Legged in April and May. See the events organized by SWCDP at the end of this memo. Additional events around town will be included in the newsletter. Hope you will join us.

If you want more information about what/why/how regarding our turf management, read on . . .



We need volunteers during April and May (see volunteer comments).

Multiple meetings, including walking the grounds with both members and non-members, all of whom have a variety of landscape, turf, and horticulture experience, a zillion emails, Mother Nature dictates, here's the scoop.

First, we reviewed past problems with the large areas of pooling water – and considered the impact from adding 15 yards of topsoil last spring; everyone agreed it was very helpful. Smoothing out the low areas, along with changing the watering schedule and making sprinkler heads along the fence line smaller, have significantly helped in reducing pooling water throughout the dog park. The general consensus was that additional topsoil might be beneficial; a decision was made to include additional dirt and grading to our work schedule this spring.

Second, on March 17 – in an effort to gain the longest growing time possible the decision was made to close on March 25. We were about to escalate the schedule, and had targeted March 26 & 27 for a 2-day turf renovation project. But Mother Nature said “not so fast”. Hold everything.

While lining up various tasks, we learned that our dirt source, Winter Brothers, could not deliver the pulverized topsoil until April – they said the dirt is currently too “clumpy and wet” – a longer string of warmer, dry days were needed. We checked a second source who agreed. Not only did we encounter the dirt kerfuffle but as we write this communiqué, it's raining and 7-Day forecast predicts rain on or around March 25. Regroup.

It is easy to get green; it is difficult to get sturdy

Third, our under-ground sprinkler system is another factor; it is not freeze proof. We shut it down for the winter and our contractor doesn't recommend turning it back on until late March-early April. If we want control of the watering schedule - our window for spring planting just got tighter. Considering everything just mentioned, we decided not to give up on the topsoil addition this year, or risk closing the dog park early, only to be delayed. The decision was made to give our members extra days for the 2014-2015 Season – and move the 2015-2016 Season opening to June 9.

This gives us 9 weeks for growing the turf. If the turf looks strong enough by June 1 – we will certainly adjust the date. As a frame of reference, last year we opened the new season on June 8, after a one week delay because the new grass was still very fragile. In fact, after opening, we still had a section with temporary fencing. Unfortunately, the area between the two large trees stayed puny all year. We are discussing options.



Fourth, over eight seasons, we have used both volunteer crews and outside contractors for a variety of turf work. This season, the decision was made to use outside help for all the large work projects, including grading, aerating, seeding, fertilizing, and new straw cover. Because of the extraordinary amount of old straw needing to be removed – and the fact that the equipment & crew will be on site anyway – we will let the contractor collect/remove all the old straw, too. We will not pull a volunteer crew together to hand-rake the old straw like we have in past seasons. Be relieved, folks, it would have been a mighty, labor-intensive job. We are currently speaking with several sources for the work mentioned. All will be decided within the next week or so and booked for early April.

Fifth, we will most likely use a fescue blend, as we have for the previous seasons. Under serious consideration but to be decided later – is to possibly incorporate a Bermuda grass “test area” later in the summer. This warm weather grass is self-repairing and sturdy. It is also very invasive and will grow like a weed. If we do this, we will install Bermuda sod in a small area, fence off temporarily until the sod settles in – and then we can see how it holds up the rest of the year and into next year.

Sixth, there is still lots to do by volunteer crews, one in April, one in May, and possibly several projects in between. These tasks and details are still being worked out. Please note that none of the work scheduled addresses our water drainage issue at Water Station 3 (Pool Pad). More on this later.

In closing, we ask for your support regarding management decisions. As always, we strive to provide the best dog park amenities possible and we want our park to stay green, clean, safe and fun for all. You can check our **Hot Line, 314/567-2012, #2** for turf updates. Once the project gets underway, Judi will update the recording on a regular basis, as news is warranted.

Volunteer Sign Up Page
www.surveymonkey.com/s/SWCDPvolunteersignup

April	May	Ad Hoc
<p>Saturday, April 4 – 9:00am until finished (weather permitting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take maze apart • Take down & store shelter • Move tables, benches, trash cans • Sort, pitch toys/balls • Clean up six garden areas (raking leaves/debris, weeding, pruning, etc.) <p>Gardens Two areas in front One area at Water Station 5 (Dog Wash) One area along message board (in Alternate Dog Park) One area near Water Station 1 & 2 (outside fence) One area near Water Station 3 (Pool Pad – outside fence)</p>	<p>May – June Dates will be sent via email</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant annual flowers • Disperse mulch • Weeding • Rake scattered straw • Wash tables, benches, trash cans, etc. • Other pre-opening tasks 	<p>April – May If you can be available for any of the tasks related to turf and garden – or tasks related to events, computer, website, administrative, construction or repair, and more – or to be on or “Call List” – please sign up on our volunteer page – this gives us a reliable source of members willing to help out. Or contact Judi directly.</p> <p>willow.nic07@yahoo.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Handy Man Specials!</i> Jobs done before new season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair fence, agility equipment • Install poop bag in front yard • Variety of repair or improvement related tasks

We cannot do it without YOU!

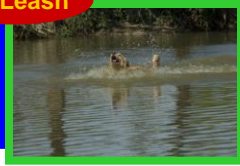
WOW!

Come on, Join the Fun

Wear your
SWCDP shirt or hoodie
If you have one

April 18 - Saturday
8:30 am – 2:00 pm
Broemmelsiek Dog Park

Off-Leash



Swim and Romp

Directions: Schwede & Wilson Rd, off State Road DD. Take Hwy 40, exit at WingHaven (DD) interchange – south on Hwy DD approx 4 miles. Right on Schwede Road to the 2nd park entrance. About a 35 minute drive from our dog park.



4.50 acres of doggie fun. Large pond for doggie swimming and loads of grass and hills for running. This is a public and free dog park; consistently voted "one of best dog parks" in area. Bring bowl for clean water for your dog to drink. The covered pavilion has plenty of benches; and hose for washing your dog after play. Parking at entry gate; restroom is on site. **Call Broemmelsiek Hot Line 636/949-7475** before heading out – park closes when the grounds are wet.

May 8 - Friday
4:00 – 8:00 pm
Tower Grove Park

On-Leash



Food Truck Friday

We love this event. Bring your pooch (on leash) your lawn chair or blanket. 20+ food trucks, wide variety of flavors; you can also bring your own cooler. Really nice outdoor activity. Family and pet friendly, for sure. Free music by Tommy Halloran's Guerrilla Swing Band. *It is always recommended to arrive as early as you can – trucks will run out of food towards end of event.* **\$4 - 10 range, most between \$5-8**

Future 2015 Dates

June 12th - 4 to 8 pm
July 10th - 4 to 8 pm
Aug. 14th - 4 to 8 pm
Sept. 11th - 4 to 7:30 pm
Oct. 2nd - 3:30 to 7 pm

April 18 - Saturday
8:30 am – 2:00 pm
Broemmelsiek Park

On-Leash



Pot Luck Picnic

Our picnic area is within walking distance from dog park so you can go back/forth throughout the day.



On adjoining pond (*fishing-no dog swim here*), it's a first come-first serve site; we plan to set up early and suggest you drop off your picnic stuff before heading to dog park to help us "claim our spot". Bring blanket and/or lawn chair, water for doggie. **FOOD-DRINK:** It's pot luck, **so bring a dish and share.** SWCDP will supply bottled water, hot dogs & buns, charcoal for the grill, paper plates & napkins. Bring whatever beverage you prefer; some may opt for a cold beer & more. **Hotdogs served at Noon.**

May 24 - Sunday
3:00 – 7:00 pm
TR Hughes Ball Park

On-Leash



Ballgame with Your Best Buddy

Game starts 4:05pm

\$7 Lawn Ticket

Pre-game: Dogs will parade on field; games, prizes, gifts. Demo with dog trainer and/or agility; adoption event via a couple shelters, too. Bring doggie water bowl and blanket for seating, also access to outfield bleachers. \$1 hotdogs; multiple, varied concessions.



Minor league baseball

River City Rascals

Frontier League, West Division



www.rivercityrascals.com



Take a deep breath . . .









We know – it happens every year – some of you may be hyper-ventilating just thinking about our renovation period. We will get through it, together. In the meantime, join us for some off-site fun while our new turf is growing.

Don't be sad - there are fun things to do!



Off-Site Events – Coordinated by SWCDP

Mark Calendars – Print Page

Date & Time	Event	Location	Cost	Comments
Wednesday April 8 6:30-8:00 pm	Outdoor Dining Patio for Pooches 	Failoni's Restaurant 6715 Manchester Road (1/4 mi east of McCausland) www.failonis.com	Buy own Patio Specials	Group Walk – Meet at patio gate at 5:45 for on-leash walk through neighborhood prior to settling in for the patio fun – outside bar and plenty of tables
Saturday April 18 8:30am-2:00pm	Swim & Romp 	Broemmelsiek Dog Park 1615 Schwede Road (Hwy40/Winghaven, go south) http://www.sccmo.org/617/Broemmelsiek-Park	Free dog park	4.5 acres with pond, fenced, restroom on-site, plenty of room for dogs to run or swim.
Saturday April 18 8:30am-2:00pm	Pot Luck Picnic 	Broemmelsiek Dog Park 1615 Schwede Road (Hwy40/Winghaven, go south) http://www.sccmo.org/617/Broemmelsiek-Park	Bring a dish <i>Hotdogs & water provided</i>	Picnic area will be walking distance from dog park; go back & forth between play & eats.
Wednesday April 29 6:30-8:00 pm	Outdoor Dining Patio for Pooches 	Onesto 5401 Finkman (at Macklind, east of Hampton) www.onestopizza.com	Buy own	Group Walk – Meet at patio at 5:45 for an on-leash group walk through neighborhood prior to enjoying the patio fun
Wednesday May 6 6:30-8:00pm	Outdoor Dining Patio for Pooches 	Failoni's Restaurant 6715 Manchester Road (1/4 mi east of McCausland) www.failonis.com	Buy own Patio Specials	Group Walk – Meet at patio gate at 5:45 for on-leash walk through neighborhood prior to settling in for the patio fun – outside bar and plenty of tables
May 8	Food Truck Friday	Tower Grove Park	\$5-8 range	See Next Page for Details
Saturday May 23 8:30-10:30 am	Swim & Romp 	Broemmelsiek Dog Park 1615 Schwede Road (Hwy40/Winghaven, go south) http://www.sccmo.org/617/Broemmelsiek-Park	Free dog park	4.5 acres with pond, fenced, restroom on-site, plenty of room for dogs to run or swim.
Sunday May 24 3:00-7:00 pm	Ballgame with Your Best Buddy 	TR Hughes Ball Park 900 TR Hughes Blvd O'Fallon, MO www.rivercityrascals.com	\$7.00 lawn ticket \$1 hotdogs	Dog friendly event, bring your pooch to the ballgame. Game Starts 4:05pm Playing Frontier Greys
Wednesday May 27 6:30-8:00pm	Outdoor Dining Patio for Pooches 	3500 Winehaus 3500 Watson Road (2 blocks from Pernod) www.winehaus.com	Buy own \$5 wine	Group Walk – Meet at patio gate at 5:45 for an on-leash group walk through neighborhood prior to settling in for the patio fun 