

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



New Fort Smith Dog Park Details Released

(January 31, 2022) - Fort Smith, AR. The City of Fort Smith, Sebastian County, and Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Area (FCRA) announce plans for a new dog park slated to open later this summer in Chaffee Crossing. The joint partnership plans to construct the new dog park on 24-acres of open space at the intersection of Fort Chaffee Boulevard and Taylor Avenue, adjacent to the Sebastian County soccer fields.

City Administrator, Carl Geffken noted, "This new dog park replaces the former park at the Fort Smith airport. We plan to provide a unique, fun, and comprehensive landscape for Fort Smith's furry and beloved family members. Our city cares deeply about pets. Our parks staff works hard to be inclusive and integrate the best pet amenities possible into our parks so Fort Smith residents enjoy the highest quality of life."

The design for the new dog park is underway and is being spearheaded by the FCRA, which is contributing some of the land for the project. FCRA CEO, Daniel Mann says, "We are very happy to share in the development of this new dog park. The timing couldn't be better with all of the new projects being developed in the Chaffee Crossing Historic Area, just a short walk away from the dog park site. The citizens of Fort Smith and the surrounding area are going to get a lot of value from this project."

Mr. Mann also says he expects the dog park design process will take anywhere approximately **two months** and that the design will lean heavily on community input.

FCRA and Sebastian County will each deed a portion of the property to the City. **Quote from Judge Hudson**

Last fall, Mars Petcare inducted Fort Smith into its national "[Better Cities for Pets](#)" program. This program certifies pet-friendly cities and provides ideas and resources for cities, residents, non-profits, and businesses who want to be more pet-friendly.

The City's Parks and Recreation Department will construct and maintain the park. The new dog park will be the third and largest dog park in Fort Smith. City leaders are also discussing the possibility of adding another dog park closer to downtown Fort Smith. The Parks and Recreation Department oversees a total of 33 parks in the City park system. Learn more by visiting the City's website: <https://parks.fortsmithar.gov/>

###

Contact information:

Carl E. Geffken, City Administrator
City of Fort Smith
623 Garrison Avenue, Room 315
Fort Smith, AR 72901
Office (479) 784-2201
cgeffken@fortsmithar.gov

Cell (479) 561-1510
www.fortsmithar.gov

Daniel Mann, CEO
Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority/Chaffee Crossing
7020 Taylor Ave., Fort Smith, AR 72916
Office 479.452.4554
Daniel@chaffeecrossing.com

Cell 479.651.0100
www.chaffeecrossing.com

Judge David Hudson
Sebastian County, Arkansas
Fort Smith Courthouse - 35 South 6th, Room 106, Fort Smith, AR 72901
Office 479-783-6139
dHUDSON@co.sebastian.ar.us

<https://www.sebastiancountyar.gov/>