



125 N Main Avenue
Hartford, SD 57033
PH: 605.528.6187
HartfordSD.us

For Immediate Release
October 21, 2022

Contact: Teresa Sidel

City of Hartford announces opening of new dog park

--Project idea initiated by Girl Scout troop members working toward Gold Award--

Hartford, SD, October 21, 2022—Hartford residents have waited a long time to enjoy the benefits of a dog park in the community. As of today with the cutting of a ribbon, a new park was officially open for guests.

Discussion for a park began in August 2018 about a possible park and site selection options were identified. Rachel Lorang and Alexa Larson, members of Hartford Girl Scout Troop 50087, initiated a community survey to confirm interest and support, which resulted in overwhelming support of the development of a park.

"Today is an exciting day in the community of Hartford, said Arden Jones, Mayor of the City of Hartford. We now have a place for residents to take their dogs to exercise and play. We have an added reason for people to be proud to call Hartford home." Jones added, "The City of Hartford strives to develop diverse outdoor recreational facilities for its residents and community visitors – this includes a space for our canine population. This is wonderful new amenity for the City of Hartford."

The park is located near the corner Hwy 38 and Railroad Street. With a majority of residents having at least one dog – some have multiple dogs; the park provides a safe space to exercise and play. The park features both a small-dog and an all-dog park and provides a place for both dogs and family to be outdoors, enjoy the fresh air, and socialize with one another. This project was made possible by city funding and donations.

Hartford is a growing community that lies just 10 miles west of South Dakota's largest city of Sioux Falls. We offer a small-town atmosphere with the benefits of a big city just minutes away. Hartford is the perfect place to live, work and grow your family. The West Central School system offers a variety of classes and has been recognized for its innovation, leadership, and educational excellence. Live Lively! in Hartford, South Dakota.

Additional Information:

Important Dog Park information to know

While a dog park is a great addition for the City of Hartford, it is important to understand that there are rules, regulations, and certain protocols that must be observed within the park.

Rules include:

Do...

- Follow all-designated rules.
- Leash your dog when entering & exiting the park.
- Keep your dog under control at all times.
- Only bring a maximum of 2 dogs per individual.
- Keep dogs in designated areas.
- Obey city ordinance by cleaning up after your dog.
- Have your dog licensed if you live within city limits.
- Have proof of vaccinations.
- Call 911 to report any dog bites, attacks, or injuries.

Don't...

- Bring puppies that are less than 6 months old.
- Bring dogs that are aggressive, ill, or in heat.
- Bring food into the off-leash area.
- Allow dogs to dig holes.
- Allow continuous barking.
- Leave dogs unattended.

In addition to those rules, owners/handlers are legally & financially liable for damage or injury inflicted by their dog.

All that being said, it is important to note that dog parks do have many benefits that include socialization for both people and dogs, community growth opportunities, boost the physical health of dogs, and promote active lifestyles that can be observed by younger members of the community. In addition, dog parks serve as a great way for citizens to get out into the community, get some fresh air, and enjoy time spent with family as well as friends.