

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 20, 2018

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ST. CHARLES COUNTY TO CELEBRATE CANINES AT ANNUAL 'PAWS IN THE PARK' FESTIVAL
Enjoy pet blessing, contests, prizes, K-9 demonstrations and more with your furry friend!

ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO – Get ready for some FREE doggone fun with the St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department! Dog lovers and their pets from across the region will converge on Broemmelsiek Park in Defiance from 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15 for the 15th annual Paws in the Park dog festival. The event, which supports local animal shelters, is the largest of its kind in St. Charles County and takes place at the park's Off-Leash Dog Area, 1795 Highway DD.



The park's 5-acre dog park is a popular place for dogs to play year-round. The beautifully manicured fenced area has a large pond with dock and a pavilion with benches, making it the perfect location to host this community event. The Broemmelsiek Park Off-Leash Dog Area was voted "Best of" by readers of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch Go! Magazine List 2018* and was a *Riverfront Times Readers' Choice* winner in 2011.

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The public is invited to bring their pooch to the park for an exciting lineup of contests, prizes, business exhibitors/vendors and sponsor giveaways, as well as K-9 obedience skills demonstrations and free food! Admission is free, but those who bring a pet supply donation will receive a special gift. Donations benefit the St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center and Five Acres Animal Shelter. Monetary donations also will be accepted.

The day's agenda is as follows:

10 a.m. Pet Blessing with Baue Pet Services: A prayer and blessing of your pet will kick off the celebration. Each owner will receive a special prayer card to take home.

10:10 a.m. Agility Course Demonstration with Infinite Pawsibilities: After the demonstration, dogs and their owners get a chance to test their skills as they maneuver through a set of jumps, tunnels and other obstacles in the agility course. After your pet masters those skills, sign him or her up for the agility contest that will be judged by Lynsey Fuegner, Professional Dog Trainer.

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10:30 a.m. Dog contests: Including Best Costume, Best Trick, Fastest Ball Retrieval from the Pond, Best Dog/Owner Look-Alike, Best Kisser and new this year, Best Catwalk and Best Agility, will be judged by our corporate sponsors under the pavilion in the dog park. Winners will receive a commemorative medal.

11:15 a.m. St. Charles County Police K-9 Unit Performs: Police officers and their partners conduct a series of drug search demonstrations using a seized car, as well as obedience skills demonstrations. Police Officer Courtney Spiess and K-9 Tank will perform lost child and fugitive tracking as well as narcotics detection demos; Police Detective Brigid Oldani and K-9 Bonnie will demonstrate electronics detection; Police Officer Tony Hojsik and K-9 Fleck showcase narcotics detection demos; and Police Officer Gary Schmitt and K-9 Bachi, Police Officer Mark Thomas and K-9 Tyson and Police Officer Mike Wilkins and K-9 Red execute fugitive apprehension and narcotics detection demonstrations. Following the performances, these officers will be available to answer questions and talk to guests.

12 p.m. Canine Search and Rescue Association K-9 Teams Perform: This team of certified volunteers and K-9s conduct a series of missing person search demonstrations. Demonstrators will be available to answer questions and talk to guests about their non-profit organization after the performance.

12:45 p.m. Gateway DockDogs Team Performs: A Dockdogs team will demonstrate how to get “big air” as they show off the popular sport of dock diving from the pond in the Off-Leash Dog Area. After the demonstration, dogs and their owners get to test their diving and water skills.

Corporate sponsors of this year's event include Yuppy Puppy Pet Spa, O'Fallon; Royal Canin, St. Charles; K9 Kamp Dog Training, Foristell and Animal Emergency Clinic, O'Fallon. Event sponsors are Crossroad Veterinary Hospital, Wentzville; Treats Unleashed, St. Peters; Sebastien's Pet Salon, Lake Saint Louis and Petsway, St. Peters; These and other participating businesses will offer product samples and giveaways throughout the day. Additionally, a limited number of pets will be available for adoption from the St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center.

For more information about the ***Paws in the Park*** celebration or to become an exhibitor/vendor at the event, call the Parks Department at 636-949-7535. Exhibitor/vendor registration and payment is due by Sept. 3.

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About St. Charles County Parks & Recreation

The St. Charles County Parks & Recreation Department offers unique parks, diverse facilities and a broad range of programs and special events for all ages. The County currently operates 15 parks, including a Youth Activity Park and The Historic Daniel Boone Home.



NEWS RELEASE

For more information and specifics about each park, visit stccparks.org.

About St. Charles County

Founded in 1812, St. Charles County is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri, and the state's third largest county in both population and economic share. St. Charles County consistently ranks one of the healthiest places to live in Missouri in the County.

Health Rankings report published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. It is home to 15 scenic County parks encompassing more than 3,643 acres with additional land under development and more in reserve for future development.

With a population of 395,504, St Charles County is home to large employers including Citi, MasterCard Worldwide, Boeing and General Motors. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.

St. Charles County employs nearly 1,100 in more than 30 departments and offices, who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop.

For more information, please visit sccmo.org.