

KATE BROWNING NEWS

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COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Media Release

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LEGISLATOR BROWNING UNVEILS UNLEASHED PILOT DOG RUN AT ROBINSON DUCK FARM PARK

Browning, Dog Groups, and Civic Members Announce Grand Opening



Pictured: (Vice President of LI Dog Ed McMullin and his dogs Tat and Cheti enjoying the new dog run in Brookhaven)



Group Pictured from left to right: (Sean Browning and his dog "Juno", President Ginny Munger Kahn of LI Dog Group, Legislator Kate Browning, Vice President of LI Dog Ed McMullin and his wife Arlyne and their dogs Tat and Cheti, Johan McConnell, President of the South Yaphank Civic Association, and Claire Goad, Friends of Wertheim)

Brookhaven, NY – Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) was joined by dog advocates and local civic members on Wednesday, December 9 to announce the opening of a new 2.6 acre unleashed dog run in Brookhaven Hamlet. The new facility will be open to the public and fills a much needed service for eastern Suffolk County dog owners. The dog park is a pilot program being managed by the Suffolk County Parks Department.

Legislator Browning has been advocating for a dog run in her district along with Ginny Munger Kahn, President of Long Island Dog Group, and Johan McConnell, President of South Yaphank Civic Organization, for the past four years. She worked with County Parks Commissioner John Pavacic to fast track the opening of the pilot program while the county works on larger designs for a fully operational dog park in Southaven Park. Resolution 461-2007 directed the Department of Parks and Recreation to identify five locations with geographical balance throughout Suffolk County for dog parks. The county currently operates fully serviced dog parks at Blydenburgh County Park and West Hills, both in Western Suffolk.

“For years residents in eastern Suffolk have been traveling to Hauppauge and Huntington to enjoy recreational activities with their dogs,” stated Browning. “This has been an inconvenience for dog owners in Brookhaven and farther east. It is especially difficult for owners that live in apartments and don’t have yards to allow their dogs to run freely in.”

The pilot program at Robinson Duck Farm Park will not be staffed by county employees and dog owners much pick up after their dogs when they are leaving. There are currently no trash receptacles on site and it is bounded by snow fencing. Although the dog run will be open for use starting Sunday, December 13, 2009 Legislator Browning will be making a request for the county to upgrade the facility with trash receptacles and gates for entering and leaving the site. She fears dogs may escape causing a dangerous situation with Montauk Highway near by, and with Southaven Park and Smith Point Park so close by she feels it should be easy for the Park's Department to have trash collection there.

"The facility is open to the public and everyone should start utilizing the site," concluded Browning. "However, I think we still need to make additional upgrades for safety and convenience to dog owners and their dogs."

Legislator Browning has worked closely with Long Island Dog Group, a proactive dog organization that has been advocating the need for dog runs for years.

"We are thrilled with this pilot program and the expansion of services for dog owners in Suffolk County," stated President Ginny Munger Kahn. "Legislator Browning has given us tremendous support, and we would not be standing here today if it was not for her efforts. We look forward to continuing that relationship by working towards fully serviced dog parks throughout our county parks system."

"As President of the South Yaphank Civic Association and a dog owner, I want to thank Legislator Browning for her effort on behalf of all the dog owners in her district for getting a dog park at the Robertson Duck Farm," stated Johan McConnell. "Dog owners will now have the opportunity to socialize their dogs and to meet other owner, within a natural border area. Again, thank you to Legislator Browning."

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