

## Columbus Makes Plans for Dog Park

**However, the Columbus (Ohio) City Council is no closer to approving a leash law for dogs and puppies.**

Despite no progress on a proposed leash law, Columbus, Ohio, is moving forward with plans to build a fenced-in dog park.

The city will open its first fenced dog park this year within Big Walnut Park on the city's east side with similar parks to follow at other locations.

The city's recreation and parks department says it plans to put the contract for the Big Walnut dog park out for bid in August and have it finished by the end of the year. The fenced-in area would be up to four acres.

Additional dog parks are also being considered at Three Creeks Park on the south side and Big Run Park on the west side of town. The city has budgeted up to \$500,000 for dog parks, according to Scott Varner, city council spokesman.

A much-discussed leash-law proposal, however, remains in limbo. Despite its first discussion two years ago, there are currently no plans for the council to vote on it. Last year Councilman Kevin Boyce proposed fining owners \$150 for unleashed dogs and requiring leashes everywhere except in designated dog parks and on private property.

Posted: April 11, 2006, 5 a.m. EST