

Check out the dog parks

If you have a dog, do yourself a favor and check out the Animal Friends of Washington County's "new" park.

Located just behind Animal Friends' Connie Clinic off Highway 36 just north of Brenham, it's designed specifically for our four-legged companions.

Angela Park (named after Angela Knauss, who with husband Bob was the driving force behind the creation of Animal Friends) was on life support last year after it was heavily damaged not once but twice from flooding. It opened in 2015.

Large sections of fencing had to be repaired/replaced after flooding in April 2016, but the once-in-a-lifetime rainfall only a month later dealt an even more devastating blow. Fences were laid flat by the power of the water, which even ripped up a drinking fountain and swept away training equipment.

The park was closed for months while Animal Friends decided on a next step. It was obvious that flooding posed too big of a risk to rebuild the larger park (for larger dogs) in the same location. So the decision was made to move it closer to the clinic to an area that hadn't flooded.

A smaller park (for smaller dogs, of course) escaped both flooding incident last year relatively unscathed.

Animal Friends spent thousands of dollars to rebuild the large park. It's not quite as big as the previous one, but it has plenty of space for your dogs to run around and play.

It has a nice pool and plenty of seating for us humans.

A gazebo was added just last



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week, topped by a doggy weathervane donated by Animal Friends volunteer/board member Paula Cizik (she got a special deal on it from Plants & Things, so send some business their way).

As expected, there's a cadre of "regulars" who bring their dogs to the park almost daily. They're some of the nicest people you'd ever hope to meet. So are their dogs.

There are occasional "disagreements" between some dogs, but those are rare. Dogs usually work things out with other dogs in just a few seconds, using body language and a strategic sniff or two.

The park is open six days a week (Sundays through Saturdays) from about 7:30 a.m. until sunset.

Some of the "please observe rules" include not bringing any food items into the park and no humans are allowed in the ponds. Also, please stay off the equipment in the training area. That's for dogs too.

Oh, and please pick up your dog's "number two" contribution.

There are ongoing maintenance costs for the parks (they are landscaped weekly and disinfectants are put in the pools to keep the dogs safe from those nasty microscopic bugs), so Animal Friends would appreciate a donation if you feel so inclined.

There's a donation box near the entrances to the parks. Or you can visit Animal Friends at www.animalfriendstexas.org and make a donation there.

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