

For Immediate Release:



A group of playful pups gather in the shade with their owners at the opening of the Oceanfront Park Dog Park on Wednesday, July 15.

City opens renovated Oceanfront Park Dog Park

MARATHON, FL (July 15, 2026) – The dog days of summer began on Wednesday, July 15, as the city officially opened its renovated Oceanfront Park Dog Park.

A handful of lovable and loud pups and their owners eagerly awaited entry as Marathon Facilities and Construction Project Manager Mark Tuschel touted the financial support of



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the Monroe County Tourist Development Council, as well as the work of numerous city employees.

“The new park is up to the standards our residents deserve,” Tuschel said.

Marathon Mayor Lynny Del Gaizo also credited those involved in bringing the dog park to fruition, and she thanked citizens for their patience.

“What you’ve noticed, when you wait, you get something beautiful,” the mayor told the crowd before cutting the ribbon to open the park.

According to Tuschel, upgrades and improvements at the dog park included:

- 18,650 square feet of Tifway 419 Bermuda grass, a soft, shorter grass perfect for all sizes of dog;
- 2,500 square feet of permeable artificial turf around the tree to eliminate dust and mud;
- Pet agility area with hoops, barrel, table, and run course;
- Additional dog watering bowl station;
- Tiki hut for shade and protection;
- Pavers under the tiki and at the entrance to eliminate dust and mud;
- Dog-washing station, adjustable to size of dog;
- Reconfigured the fence and gates for easier access and safety;
- Updated and reconfigured the irrigation system for full coverage to keep the grass healthy; and
- Additional doggy stations to keep the park clean.

Following the posted schedule, the dog park will be closed Monday and Tuesday, July 20-21. The dog is closed the first and third Monday and Tuesday of each month for regrowth and maintenance, according to city officials.

The total cost of the renovations was \$96,430, with \$80,291 provided through a grant from the TDC, and the city’s portion \$16,139.



The renovated and expanded dog park includes an agility course.



LEFT: A dog-washing station can be found under the tiki shelter. RIGHT: KC and Kevin brought Miso to the grand-opening ceremony for the Oceanfront Park Dog Park on Wednesday, July 15.



Public Works Director Paul Bartnik, center, and Facilities and Construction Project Manager Mark Tuschel, far right, are joined by the crew responsible for the renovated dog park, from left, Facilities Landscaping Supervisor Leo Diaz, TJ Hawkins, James 'Bubba' Williams, Angel Broche, Hugo Torres, Yoquiel Quintana, Manny Polanco, and Eber Fernandez

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