

# Hatfield's going to the dogs

## Township's park for canines opens on Saturday

By DAN SOKIL  
Staff Writer

Starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, Hatfield Township is going to the dogs.

More precisely, the township's new Dog Park will open its gates for the first time, to two- and four-legged township residents who want to come out and meet other dogs.

"On Saturday we'll be having an open house program from 9 to 11 a.m., which will have a brief ceremony to basically cut the ribbon and admit people and make it kind of a special affair," said Hatfield Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Stock.

"We'll actually have our commissioners President Scott Brown there to unhook a couple of leashes that will be strung together, and I envision him standing before a bunch of people and the dogs all sitting there on their leashes obediently listening to Scott," Stock said.

The dog park is located at 2500 North Chestnut Street, adjacent to the township's park and trail system, and will be open from dawn to dusk seven days a week starting Saturday.

The park features separate areas for "bold" or "tender" dogs, which Stock said depends on how well your dog plays with others.

"The tender dog area is meant for dogs that are shy, young, small, nervous, elderly, recovering from injuries, or solitary. Owners can move back and forth between the two areas based on how their dog is behaving that day, but we didn't want to just say the areas were for small or big dogs," said Stock.

All dogs must be accompanied by owners or handlers who are at least 16 years old with valid driver's license or ID; the dogs must be legally licensed, currently vaccinated and healthy; and no dogs under 5 months old or female dogs in heat are allowed in

Please see DOGS on A4



GEOFF PATTON/THE REPORTER

**DOGS AND** owners enter the Hatfield Dog Park for an Intro to Dog Park class led by trainer Kelly Krager, left, to familiarize dog owners with the use of the park which officially opens on Saturday.

## DOGS

Continued from Page A1

the park.

Owners must clean up after their dogs and repair any holes they dig in the park; no food, glass containers, smoking or alcohol, or animals other than dogs are allowed in the park; and dog owners or handlers are responsible for any injuries or property damage caused by dogs they bring to the park.

A complete list of dog park rules can be found at [www.hatfieldtownship.org/dogpark.html](http://www.hatfieldtownship.org/dogpark.html) or call (215) 855-0900.

"One of the things people ought to realize is that you're going there to be with your dog, so you should stay alert and attentive to your dog and what it's

doing," said Stock.

Construction of the park was funded with a grant from the state's Department of Conservation of Natural Resources, and has been a desired feature of the Hatfield Township-Hatfield Borough open space plan for several years, Stock said.

"It's not a place for you go to sit there with a book and a folding chair. People have said to us, 'Why are there no benches in the park?' — but the point is that you're not there to sit on a bench and relax and chit-chat with your neighbors. You'll be there to interact with your dog, and oversee your dog having fun with other dogs," she said.