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For Immediate Release

## **City/County Dog Exercise Area to Open in Bay View** *A True Partnership for the People*

Milwaukee, WI (May 5, 2014) –The new City/County off-leash dog exercise area (DEA) in Bay View will open with a “leash-cutting” ceremony, Thurs., May 8 at 4:30 p.m., at East Lincoln Avenue and South Bay Street. The event is hosted by Residents for Off-leash Milwaukee Parks (ROMP), the friends’ group for Milwaukee County’s dog exercise areas. Everyone in attendance will receive a ticket for a chance to win a year’s worth of unlimited dog washes from Community Bark Dog Wash and Groom.

“Thanks to another exciting partnership with the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County will now be able to offer our citizens the Bay View Dog Exercise Area, an off-leash exercise area for dogs and their owners,” said County Executive Chris Abele.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett said, “This project, with the County as our partner, takes an under-utilized City-owned property and transforms it into a real asset for our residents. We’re hopeful dog owners, and non-dog owners alike, appreciate this new positive use of the land.”

In the 10-year agreement between the City and County, the City maintains its ownership of the property and makes a one-time payment to the County. In return, the Milwaukee County Parks Department develops, builds, operates, and maintains the fenced-in dog exercise area. After 10 years, the agreement may be extended.

City Alderman Tony Zielinski said, “There has been a real need for a dog park in the Bay View neighborhood, and one day when I passed this lot, I thought that this would be an ideal location. As an off-leash dog park, this property will become a true asset to the neighborhood and surrounding community.”

Milwaukee County Board Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic was instrumental in the development of the partnership. “I’m proud to have been involved in this project. The Bay View DEA is good for dogs and dog owners, and it’s good for the neighborhood,” said Dimitrijevic.

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Currently, the Milwaukee County Parks Department operates Granville, Runway, Currie, Warnimont, and Estabrook DEAs. Rules and regulations of the DEAs are enforced by Milwaukee County Park Rangers.

“The DEAs are definitely filling a need in the community,” said John Dargle, Jr. “Last year we sold 3,500 permits.”

Patrons of the Bay View DEA will use the same permit system in use at the other dog exercise areas. DEA Permits allow admission to any of the Milwaukee County dog exercise areas. The annual permit fee for a Milwaukee County resident with one dog is \$25, and each additional dog is \$5. Discounts are available for seniors and persons with disabilities. Non-resident fees are slightly higher.

For more information, visit [countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com)

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