Photos on the fridge, toys on the floor, playing outside after work, waking you up with kisses in the morning – ohhh no, not of your kids, but your dog. Does this sound like you? If so, you are one of the numerous pet owners who think of their furry friends as family.

Dogs have always been “man’s best friend” but, recently, emphasis has been placed on the quality of life for dogs. Limited space in homes, over-extended schedules, and long work days have left pet owners looking for opportunities for their dogs to have their physical and emotional needs met. Dogs need a safe space to release their energy. The solution…Dog Parks.

Dog Parks provide an area for exercise, maintaining muscle mass, agility and socialization. Dogs meet in neutral territory and are given opportunities to explore, play and run free. It’s also a great space for owners to meet fellow dog lovers, swap stories and enjoy being outdoors with their pets, while being responsible pet owners.

The Novi City Council recognized a need for a dog park in Novi and included one’s creation in last year’s annual budget. The process to develop the park included selecting a location, design, and coordinating with various internal and external departments on construction.

Opening on Saturday, October 4, the Novi Dog Park is located on Nick Lidstrom Drive, behind the Novi Ice Arena. The new, nearly three-acre Novi Dog Park has areas for large and small/timid dogs. Memberships are required. The park provides a location where dogs can run off leash, while still supervised by their owners/attendants.

Celebrate the grand opening of the Novi Dark Park with your furry friends. There will be giveaways for you and your pet, an area will be set aside for non-member dogs and information will be available on how to make your dog a member.

Want to check out the park but don’t have a dog? The Oakland County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center will be at the Grand Opening from 10am - 2pm with adoptable dogs.

For more information, visit cityofnovi.org or call the Novi Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department at 248.347.0400.

The top 6 reasons why off-leash parks are good for everyone

- Promote good canine physical health and socialization, reducing nuisance behaviors and making dogs better canine citizens
- Discourage delinquent and criminal activity in parks
- Encourage people to exercise and stimulate social interaction with other people
- Accommodate older adults and the disabled, who cannot always walk their dogs on leash
- Build a community of people committed to parks, community involvement and the environment
- Encourage compliance with local leash laws and reduce the number of dogs likely to end up in shelters