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EULESS -- The McKee family lives on Foxbury Drive, and now they know where that name comes from.

Michael McKee said an adult fox had been living under his daughter's playhouse in the backyard, but Thursday his daughter came in the house with a surprising discovery.

"She said, 'Daddy, daddy, there's babies!'" Mr. McKee said. "And I said, 'Babies for what? The fox?' And I look, and there's one, then there was two, then there was three, then there was four, and now, there's five."

The family had no idea the adult fox was a mother. They say the foxes aren't shy or afraid of humans, but they don't like the family dog.

The dog is now banned from the backyard until the fox family moves on.

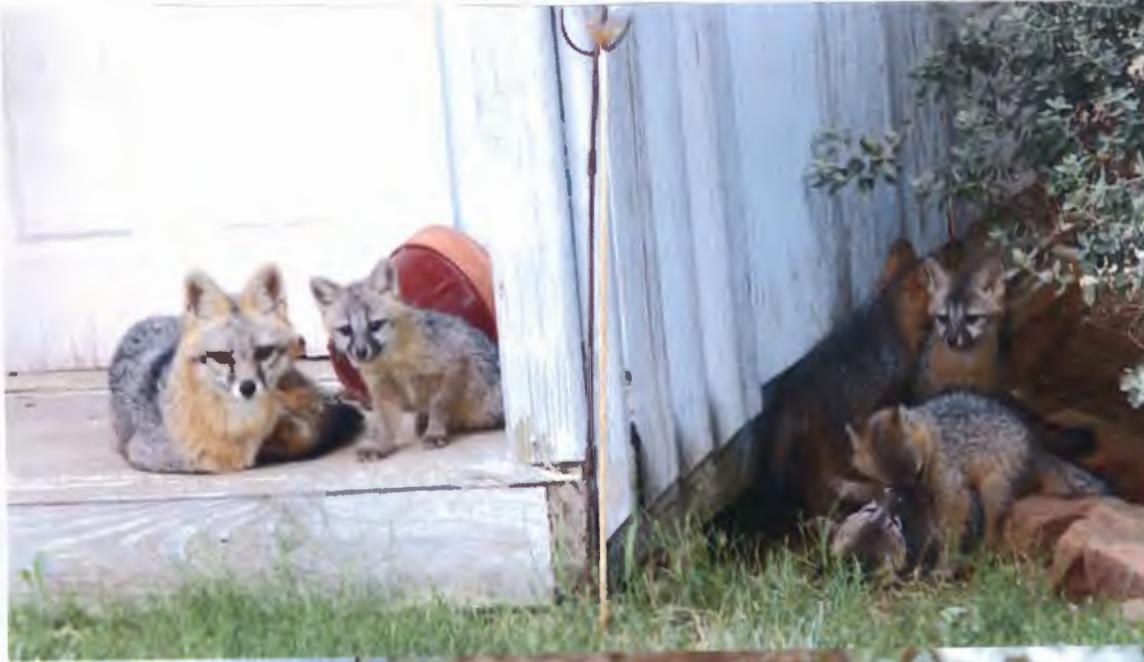


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PAGE 2 OF 2

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PAGE 1 OF 1

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## Eules Aquatic Park Celebrates Grand Opening

May 31, 2013 5:38 PM

**EULESS (CBSDFW.COM)** - North Texans have a new place to cool off this summer. The Eules Aquatic Park celebrated its grand opening on Friday, one day before the start of June.

Swimmers can wade in the lazy river, take a spin on the thrill slides or hide out from the sun in the shade areas.

The park will be open everyday this summer. Weekday admission is \$3 for residents and \$6 for non-residents. **Children** 2 and under are free with a paying adult. Eules residents can buy a season pass for \$150.

The water park is located at the Eules **Family** Life Center at Midway Park.

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Dog parks

# POOCH ON THE LOOSE

Bedford's Bark Park is latest addition to area's growing list of canine havens



Carson Busby, 5, plays with English bulldog Po Boy at Tails 'N Trails dog park off Green Oaks Boulevard in Arlington on May 29. Star-Telegram/Khampha Bouaphanh

By Terry Evans  
tevans@star-telegram.com

Jason Smith is a connoisseur of dog parks.

The president of the Fort Worth Dog Park Association has taken Woods, his 6-year-old black lab, to Tipps Canine Hollow in North Richland Hills,

BooBoo's Buddies in Southlake, Central Bark in Grand Prairie, Villages of Bear Creek Dog Park in Euless and Tails 'N Trails in Arlington.

"I'm a dog park fanatic," Smith said. "Every one of them is great. Arlington has a very nice wooded area that has a lot of

shade. Grand Prairie did a great job putting out lots of big rocks for dogs to jump on and off. Euless just is kind of state-of-the-art with all the bells and whistles."

He now has another option with the opening of Bedford's

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Bark Park, a 2.5-acre canine haven that is the latest in a flurry of parks that have opened in the past nine years in the Tarrant County area.

Fort Worth's Fort Woof, which opened in 2004, was Tarrant County's first city-owned dog park, and since then, dog lovers have seen seven other cities in the area open parks specifically designed for their best friends. They're part of a national trend that saw the number of off-leash parks grow from about 500 the year Fort Woof opened to as many as 1,300 now.

Dogfriendly.com is constantly adding to its list of public dog parks, said its editor, Len Kain.

"While I can't give you an exact number, we have 1,306 official off-leash dog parks listed on Dog-Friendly.com in the U.S. and Canada," he said. "Of those, 1,041 are in the U.S. and 265 are in Canada. This probably represents about three-fourths of the official dog parks in the country so there may be about 1,400 official off-leash dog parks in the U.S."

Smith said the parks are not only great places for dogs, but also their owners.

"Fort Woof is one of the few venues in our large urban area where complete strangers talk with one another more than 'Hi, how are you?'" said Smith. "There was even a guy who proposed to a woman on one of the memorial bricks. He actually put his proposal on one of the bricks that we sold as a fundraiser."

**The people here are really nice'**

Amenities play a big part in dog park choice.

Trees were the main attraction for Sue Davis, a Wisconsin transplant who's been bringing 11-year-old Roxy, a Rottweiler mix, and 11-month-old Sammy, a "Malteypoo" to Tails 'N Trails, because it comes closest to what she left behind.

"I've been bringing dogs to dog parks for 20 years," she said. "We've been here one year and Roxy misses the park in Madison. It had woods and a lake and it was beautiful."

Arlington resident Tammy Kuschel said that Chester, her 2-year-old golden retriever and standard poodle mix, also likes the woods in Tails 'N Trails, but that's not the main reason it's their favorite.

"The people here are really nice," she said.

In its six years, Tails 'N Trails has become the center of dog-owner social circles, said Sarah Murphy of Grand Prairie.

"There are shifts of people," she said. "Some come at 5:30 a.m. when it opens, others at 9 a.m., others come after work."

In fact, Murphy and her 10-year-old boxer, Ty, often see the same groups at Central Bark in their hometown.

"Everyone goes to Grand Prairie when this one is wet and closed, and they come here when it's dark, because Grand Prairie doesn't have lights," she said.

**Great for apartment dwellers**

Interestingly, though they see one another often, the owners are more likely to know the other dogs' names than the names of other owners, Murphy said.

Zach Marston said

**much the same about the Villages of Bear Creek Dog Park in Euless.**

"It's a good place to meet people," he said. "It gets packed out from 5 to 7."

But the park might owe the number of loyal users to its convenience to one of the numerous apartment complexes in the area next to Dallas Fort Worth Airport. Marston said he wouldn't be able to have a dog, otherwise.

"I've no idea what I'd do without this dog park," he said. "In fact, this is the only reason I adopted Bandit."

Marston's first apartment after he moved to Euless from Wichita Falls was about 100 yards from the dog park. He's been bringing the 2-year-old border collie/heeler to it almost every day since he was a puppy, even after moving to another apartment two miles away.

Though the park has lots of things to crawl through and climb over, Bandit's only interested in the tennis balls that are always handy, Marston said.

"He picks one out and that's his until we leave," he said. "If another dog sniffs at it he'll bark, but he doesn't get aggres-

sive."

**Mean dogs not welcome**

Aggressive dogs aren't welcome in any of the dog parks, according to rules posted at each of them. While fights occasionally happen, Davis said owners tend to respond quickly to stop them.

"You can tell when someone brings in a dog that's going to be trouble," she said. "It's growling even in the entry pen, and you know something's going to happen."

Double-gated entry pens are another common element of Tarrant County's dog parks, along with high fences and "doggy bag" dispensers.

For the most part, dog park users are good about using the bags to pick up dog droppings, said Anna and Alex Torres, Fort Worth residents who frequently bring their 5-month-old Doberman/Rottweiler, Riley, to Fort Woof.

"I like it because it's clean, open and big," Anna Torres said. "People keep up with their dogs and everyone's really friendly."

Terry Evans, 817-390-7620  
Twitter: @fwstevans

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### Tarrant County area dog parks

#### Fort Woof, Fort Worth

- The first dog park in Tarrant County, Fort Woof is located in Gateway Park, 750 N. Beach St. It is a 5-acre park with separate areas for small and large dogs. Both areas feature shelters, benches, agility courses and water fountains.
- Open daily from 5 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- Cost to build: \$81,000.

#### Tails 'N Trails, Arlington

- The park that opened in 2007 at 950 S.E. Green Oaks Blvd. has 5.7 acres and separate areas for small and large dogs. Both areas have benches, tree-shaded areas, water fountains and nature trails.
- Open during daylight hours except Tuesday, when it's closed for mowing.
- Cost to build: \$460,000.

#### Boo-Boo's Buddies Community Dog Park, Southlake

- The 2.5-acre park opened in 2006 next to the Bob Jones Park softball complex, 3901 N. White Chapel Blvd. It has separate areas for large and small dogs and feature picnic tables, benches, water fountains.
- Open daily from dawn to dusk.
- Cost to build: \$72,000 total (\$30,000 capital improvement program funds and \$42,000 equally divided between Southlake Parks Development Corporation and Boo-Boo's Buddies fundraising group led by Jan Economy in honor of her late sister, Nancy, whose dog was named BooBoo)

#### Villages of Bear Creek Dog Park, Euless

- The 3-acre park opened in 2008 at 1951 Bear Creek Parkway in the city's apartment-rich northeast area. It has separate areas small and large dogs and features covered picnic tables, wash stations on concrete slabs and drinking fountains (separate for dogs and people).
- Open daily from sunrise to sunset.
- Cost to build: \$125,000 (including irrigation, fencing, features and sod).

#### Bark Park, Bedford

- The 2.5-acre park opened Saturday at 3200 Meadow Park Drive. It has separate area for small and large dogs and features water fountains and benches. The city intends to add shade structures and lighting
- Open daily from sunrise to sunset.
- Cost to build: \$25,000 from Parks & Recreation Advisory Board through the Park Donation Fund and capital campaign efforts.

#### Tipps Canine Hollow Dog Park, North Richland Hills

- The 3-acre park opened in 2006 at 7804 Davis Blvd. It has separate area for small and large dogs and features, huge trees, drinking fountains and shaded picnic tables.
- Open daily from 8 a.m. to dusk.
- Cost to build: \$208,500

#### Central Bark Dog Park, Grand Prairie

- The 3.5-acre park opened in 2007 at 2252 W. Warrior Trail, just north of Prairie Paws Adoption Center. It has separate areas for small and large dogs and features shade structures, water fountains (separate for dogs and people) and portable toilets.
- Open daily from 5:30 a.m. to midnight.
- Cost to build: \$330,000, which included parking lot, sidewalk, fencing, irrigation and sod.

#### Keenum-Shelton Dog Park, Lake Worth

- The 1.27-acre park opened in 2008 at 3209 Dakota Trail. It features obstacle courses, fire hydrants and covered area with water and seating.
- Open daily from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Cost to build: \$63,000.

**"You can tell when someone brings in a dog that's going to be trouble."**

Sue Davis, who uses Arlington's Trails 'N Tails dog park

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## City, district see increase in tax base

Posted Monday, Jun. 03, 2013

Mansfield's tax base grew by 5.1 percent to \$4.53 billion dollars this year as the city's economy continued its rebound from the recession, according to preliminary data from the Tarrant Appraisal District.

The city's net taxable value increased by \$220.4 million, of which more than half -- \$132.7 million -- resulted from new construction, said Peter Phillis, the city finance director. Commercial development accounted for \$88 million of the new construction, and the rest came from residential development.

"It's a significant increase from what we were anticipating," Phillis said.

He projects the increase will be trimmed to about 4.5 percent after property valuation challenges are resolved and the updated tax rolls that local governments rely on to build their budgets are released in late July. But even that would produce a net gain of about \$1.3 million in real budget dollars for next year. The current year's general fund budget is \$38.4 million.

"It's too early to count our blessings now," City Manager Clayton Chandler said, but added that the 2013-14 budget will have to address worn-out streets, frozen staff positions and public safety equipment in need of replacement. "There's no problem finding something to do with" the extra revenue.

Tarrant County overall posted a 4.3 percent, or about \$5.4 billion, in property value gains.

Although Mansfield officials were pleased with the growth, the city -- historically among the fastest growing before the recession hit in 2008 -- ranked 10th in value increases among Tarrant County cities, according to the appraisals.

White Settlement topped the list at 23.7 percent, followed by Westworth Village with 14.2 percent, Euless with 6.4 percent and Hurst with 6.3 percent. Arlington's values grew by 5.3 percent, to \$18.6 billion, and Fort Worth's by 4.4 percent, to \$44 billion.

The Mansfield school district saw its tax base grow to \$9.32 billion, an increase of \$332.23 million, or 3.7 percent. Finance officials said they wanted more time to evaluate the tax-base data before commenting.

But tax-base bumps cause more celebration at City Hall than at the school district, since new property tax revenues for schools are mostly accompanied by offsetting reductions in state funding.

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## Tarrant County watering restrictions back in effect

Posted Tuesday, Jun. 04, 2013

A little more than a year after twice-a-week outdoor restrictions were lifted, the rules are going back into effect for almost all of Tarrant County today.

Stage 1 restrictions are triggered when the Tarrant Regional Water District, which provides raw water to 98 percent of Tarrant County, hits 75 percent of its storage capacity.

The recent round of rains haven't been enough to avoid hitting that threshold, the water district said.

Even if we see rain in the coming weeks that eases the drought, it won't mean the restrictions will suddenly end.

"We want to avoid a situation of going in and out of Stage 1," said Mark Olson, the water district's conservation and creative manager. "We want to recover to a point to not be dipping back to 75 percent storage capacity within a minimum of three months."

The rules are the same as they were a year ago, with the exception of hosing down paved areas. Last year, it was a restriction. Now it is just a recommendation. The rule had a negative impact on the commercial spray industry that wasn't intended, Olson said.

Residential customers whose addresses end in odd numbers will be allowed to water lawns and landscapes with sprinklers on Sundays and Thursdays. Addresses ending in even numbers may water only on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

Nonresidential customers, including apartments, businesses, parks and common areas, may water only on Tuesdays and Fridays.

No outdoor watering is allowed on Monday.

Other Stage 1 measures include reducing the frequency of draining and filling swimming pools. Watering is still prohibited between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., when evaporation is at its highest.

A hand-held hose, soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems are not subject to the rules.

"I think it's important that people realize that twice per week is something that should not have an impact on the quality of our landscapes," Olson said. "By watering infrequently and deeply, you encourage your lawn to grow deeper roots."

Fort Worth officials are preparing to put out signs and banners, reminding customers that the restrictions have gone into effect.

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"The biggest thing is making people aware of the restrictions and understanding what their watering days are," said Fort Worth Water Department spokeswoman Mary Gugliuzza. "In most cases, once people understand what their days are, they are compliant."

Anyone establishing new landscapes can apply for a variance in Fort Worth. Residents who have their own water wells are excluded from the rules.

This is second time the water district, which provides raw water to 1.8 million people, has implemented Stage 1 restrictions.

The last time was in August 2011, and they were lifted in May 2012. There was some discussions last year in Fort Worth and Arlington of making those restrictions permanent, but it stalled after opposition surfaced.

In 2011, water use dropped by 8 percent from what Tarrant Regional projected it would have been without restrictions.

In July and August without restrictions, water usage can climb as high as 500 million gallons per day or more.

In January, when outdoor water usage is low, it can drop as low as 200 million gallons per day.

#### WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Stage 1 watering restrictions will take effect Monday for most Tarrant County cities.

- The Tarrant Regional Water District's main customers are Fort Worth, Arlington, Mansfield and the Trinity River Authority, which then sell water to other cities.
- Other entities that will impose the restrictions include Aledo, Bedford, Benbrook Water Authority, Bethesda Water Supply Corp., Burleson, Colleyville, Crowley, Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, Dalworthington Gardens, Edgecliff Village, Eules, Everman, Forest Hill, Grapevine, Grand Prairie, Haltom City, Haslet, Hurst, Keller, Kennedale, Lake Worth, Northlake, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills, Roanoke, Saginaw, Southlake, Trophy Club Municipal Utility District, Westlake, Westover Hills, Westworth Village and White Settlement.

Restrictions include

- Residential customers whose addresses end in odd numbers (1, 3, 5, 7 and 9) are allowed to water lawns and landscapes with sprinklers on Sundays and Thursdays.
- Addresses ending in even numbers (2, 4, 6, 8 or 0) may water only on Saturdays and Wednesdays.
- Nonresidential customers, including apartments, businesses, parks and common areas, may water only on Tuesdays and Fridays.

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PAGE 3 OF 3

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- One exception is Colleyville, where twice-a-week watering is permitted by geographic areas rather than by addresses. Colleyville has a map of the watering zones on the city's website.
- Watering is still prohibited between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

More information

Residents can find out more information and learn conservation tips by going to [savenorthtexaswater.com](http://savenorthtexaswater.com).

Sources: Tarrant Regional Water District, Fort Worth Water Department

Bill Hanna, 817-390-7698 Twitter: @fwhanna

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## U.S. Concrete's Precast Products Offer Strength Needed for Boardwalk Rebuild

EULESS, Texas, June 6, 2013 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Late last month, U.S. Concrete Precast, a U.S. Concrete, Inc. (Nasdaq:[USCR](#)) company, began constructing a portion of the 2,500 precast pieces that will serve as the base of the Long Beach Island boardwalk in Long Beach, N.Y. The boardwalk, destroyed by Hurricane Sandy in October of last year, is an overall rebuild estimated at nearly \$44.2 million.

The reconstruction will utilize precast concrete, a type of concrete that is pre-manufactured off-site and then transported and installed on-site at a later date. The concrete is less susceptible to storm damage than the traditional wood planks used in the past and is built to withstand the high velocity winds of hurricanes that commonly occur on east coast beaches. The nostalgic feel of the boardwalk will be preserved by inlaying tropical wood planks on top of the precast, on which visitors will then be able to walk.

"Precast will not only provide long-lasting strength and resistance to hurricane-type storms, but also a resistance to the harsh salt water environment. It will also provide longevity unmatched by wood," said General Manager of U.S. Concrete Precast Marc Davis.

The product produced in the Middleburg plant will be transported to Long Beach, NY for installation. A small piece of the 2.25 mile long boardwalk is expected to open in July while the finished product is anticipated to be completed in November.

"U.S. Concrete Precast is excited to be a part of this project and to contribute to the Long Beach community by aiding in the restoration of the boardwalk. The boardwalk is such an iconic symbol of this community and many others along the eastern coastline. We couldn't be more excited to play a role in bringing it back to its fullest potential," ended Davis.

### About U.S. Concrete Precast

Located in Middleburg, Pa., U.S. Concrete Precast is on the forefront of the precast concrete industry. For 50 years, U.S. Concrete Precast has provided ready-made concrete products for use in nearly all types of buildings including parking garages, office buildings, residential high-rises, stadiums, municipal and educational buildings. Precast concrete provides unique solutions allowing for faster builds, customized design and energy-efficient green initiatives. For more information on U.S. Concrete Precast, visit [www.us-concreteprecast.com](http://www.us-concreteprecast.com).