



# Bedford Dog Park

Site Recommendation

# Task Force Charge

- ▶ To explore, discuss and evaluate various pre-determined locations suitable for an off-leash, fenced dog park
- ▶ Perform necessary initial site evaluations to determine the feasibility and costs
- ▶ Address the amenities necessary for a fully functional dog park, develop a cost analysis for the construction of such a facility and determine the desired physical aspects of the Dog Park

# Task Force Charge

- ▶ Determine the funding needs and funding sources for the construction and ongoing maintenance of the recommended Dog Park
- ▶ With the approval of the Selectmen, assist with the development of any applications required for public and private funding grants necessary to support the project, both in construction and long-term sustainability.

# Task Force Activities since December 4 Selectmen's Meeting

- ▶ Met 2 times per month since December 2017
- ▶ Considered over 10 new sites
- ▶ Open meeting at two sites (SBP and Lindau Farm)
- ▶ Responded to citizen requests for records
- ▶ Responded to citizen inquiries in Open Meeting
- ▶ Reorganized

# Site Evaluation Criteria

**Table 1. Median Scores for Dog Park Selection Criteria (1=Least Important; 3=Most Important)**

a. Parking Available	(2.9)	
b. Water Service Available	(2.6)	<b>SCORE OF 3</b>
c. Natural Shade/Trees	(2.5)	
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d. Size	(2.4)	
e. Proximity to Abutters	(2.3)	
f. Traffic	(2.0)	
g. Centrally located	(1.9)	<b>SCORE OF 2</b>
h. Mosquitoes	(1.8)	
i. Setting/Beauty	(1.7)	
j. Environmental Impacts/Tree Clearing	(1.6)	
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k. Existing Open Space	(1.5)	<b>SCORE OF 1</b>
l. Grading	(1.2)	

# Site Evaluation Criteria

## Additional considerations:

- ▶ Proximity to water service (grant allows tapping into existing line but doesn't cover extending water service)
- ▶ Safety concerns at site (unauthorized use of pond and play structures, sense of isolation)
- ▶ Extra costs (opening/closing park gates after hours, removing existing structures)
- ▶ Abutters – number and proximity

# Additional Sites Considered

## Since Dec 2017:

- 1) Eliot Road Park
- 2) Altmann Tennis Court (off Dudley Road)
- 3) Lindau Farm (off Pine Hill Road)
- 4) Hartwell Forest near South Rd.
- 5) Old Res near Shawsheen Cemetery
- 6) New site at Hartwell Road Well Field
- 7) DPW storage site – Carlisle Rd
- 8) Lane School
- 9) Between Mitchell Grant Way and Rte.3
- 10) Police Firing Range property (off Middlesex Tpk)
- 11) Off Middlesex Tpk – Plank Rd.
- 12) Near Mill Pond

(Several other sites suggested but on known conservation land)

# Additional Sites Considered

## Reasons these sites were ruled out:

- ▶ Marshy
- ▶ MWRA restrictions
- ▶ Abutter objections
- ▶ Significant wildlife
- ▶ Difficult entry/exit
- ▶ Lack of parking/space for parking
- ▶ Planned uses by Town
- ▶ Too close to school
- ▶ Too remote



# Recommended Sites

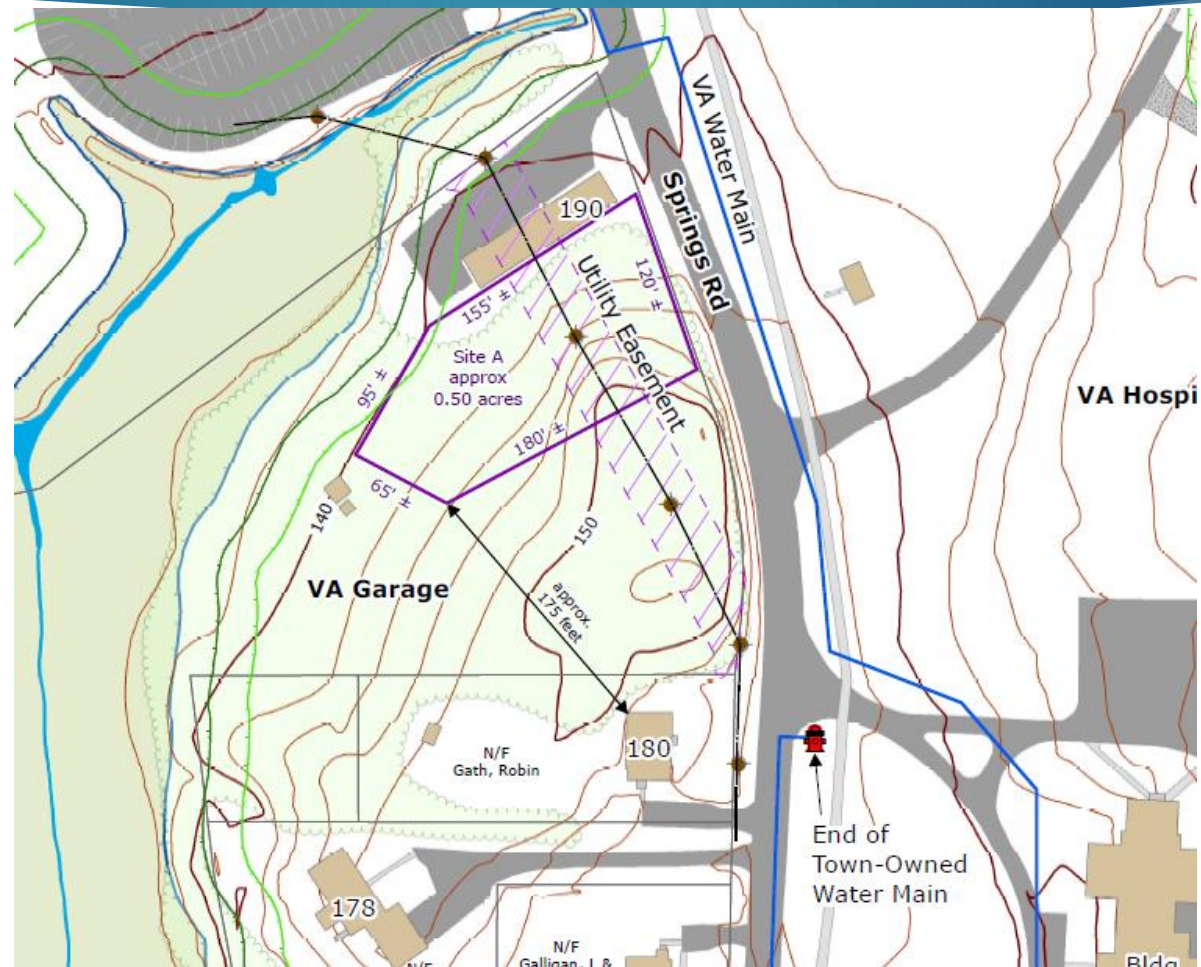
- **Town Garage by VA Hospital**

Site moved north and expanded around utility pole to maximize the distance and upward slope as buffer to abutter.

- **Springs Brook Park Site A**

Site moved west in response to concerns related to safety and inappropriate use of pond and amenities. SBP gate would be relocated to be after the dog park and before the pond parking lot.

# Town Garage by VA Hospital



# Town Garage by VA Hospital

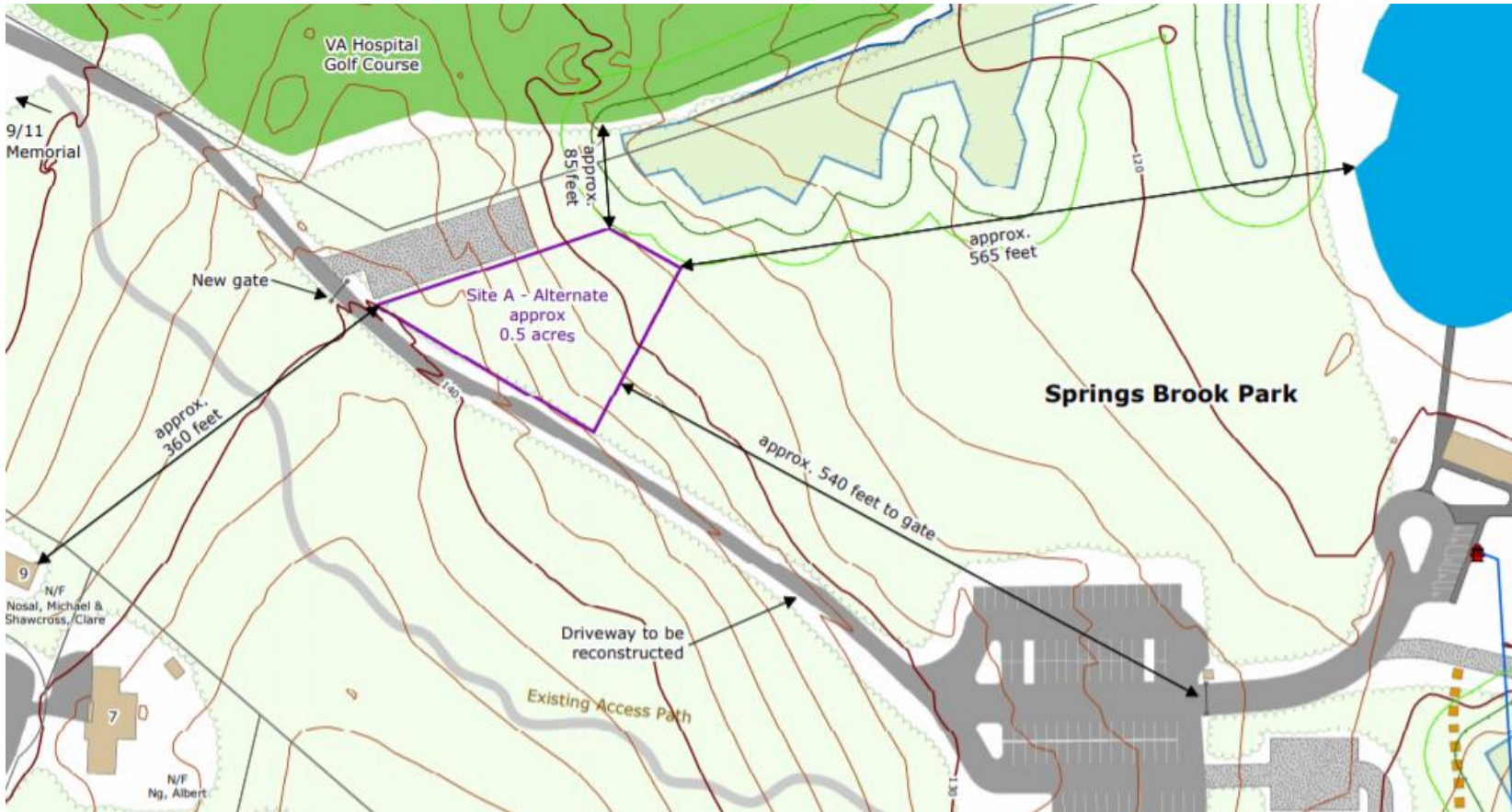
## Pros:

- Accessible by sidewalks
- Some parking available, with space for more
- Make use of underutilized land that is specifically designated for recreational use

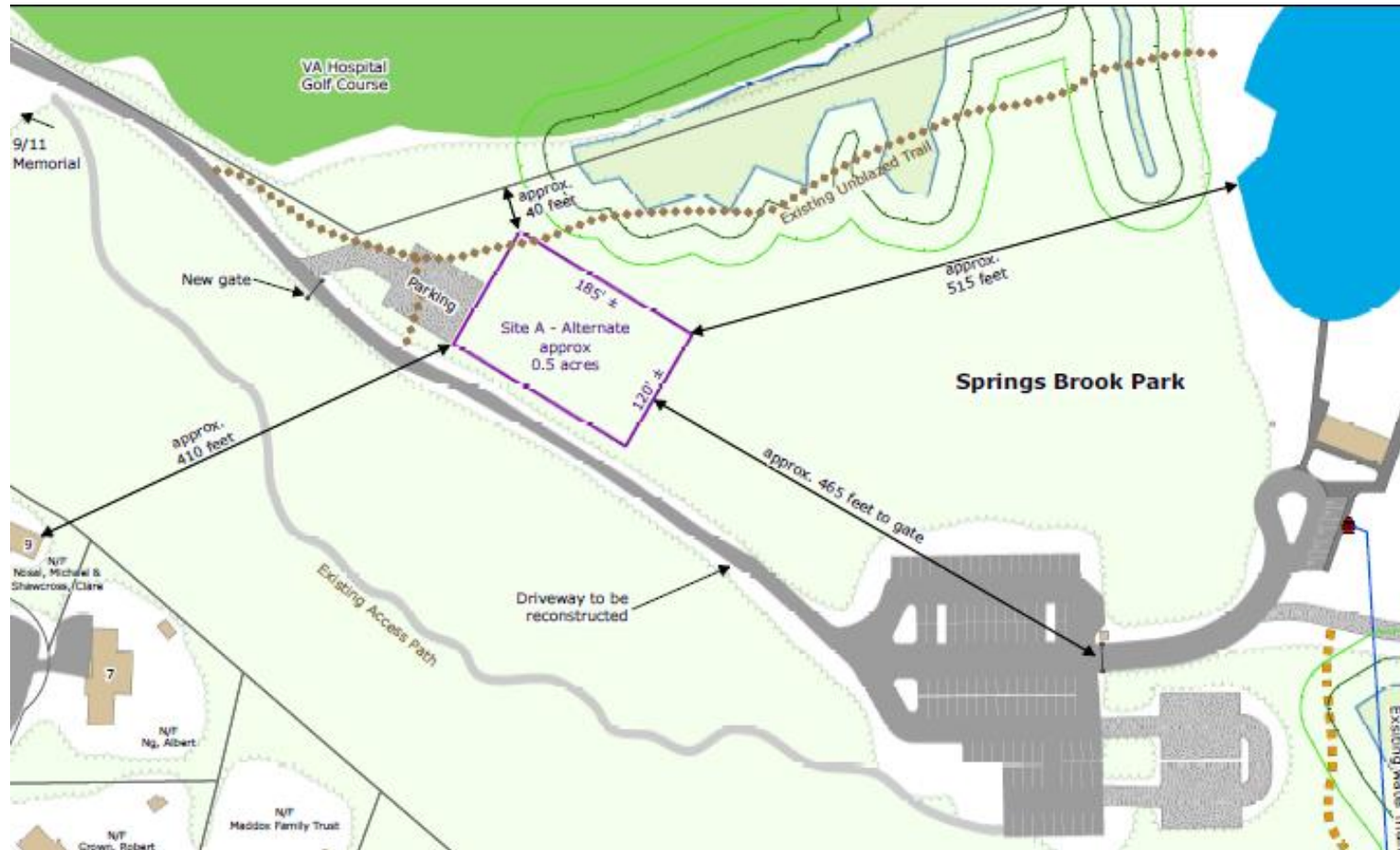
## Cons:

- Tree removal
- Direct abutter 175' away
- Abutter objections
- Water supply distance unknown (but less than SBP- New Site A)
- Utility easement
- Buggy

# Springs Brook Park Site A (Trapezoidal lot)



# Springs Brook Park Site A (Rectangular lot)



# Springs Brook Park Site A (Aerial)



# Springs Brook Park Site A

## Pros:

- Fewest close abutters of all sites considered
- Good use of park, land designated for recreational use
- Some existing parking
- Some shade trees
- Trees to be cleared much less dense than original SBP Site A, and fewer large pines
- Accessible by trails

## Cons:

- Some tree removal
- Closest abutter 360 feet
- Abutter objections
- Near VA golf course
- Water supply: 1200 ft. @ ~\$36,000
- Maintenance cost to plow the access road
- Potentially changes character of SBP

# Next Steps

- Selectmen to choose Site
- Obtain additional public input
- Apply for Stanton Foundation Design Grant:
  - Obtain Assurance Letter from Town
  - Prepare draft budget
  - Create preliminary sketch
- Determine whether additional Town funds needed (e.g., for water connection, if SBP Site A is chosen)