

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.
Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

A New Kind of Park for Medway

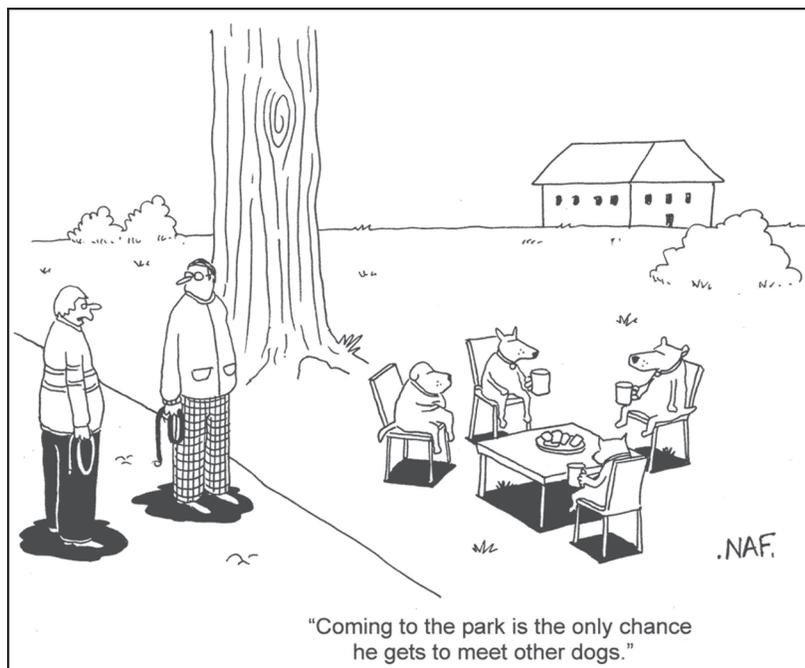
Dear Members of the Medway Town Council:

- 1 Our town is a wonderful place to live. I really enjoy going to the local library and playing at the local baseball field. However, there is one thing our town cannot go on without. I am the proud companion of a wonderful dog, and I am sure many other dog owners would agree with me that Medway should establish a dog park. Doing so would benefit not only dogs and their owners but the whole community as well. It would give Medway residents a chance to exercise and socialize, and it would help the town by ensuring happy, well-behaved dogs.
- 2 Dogs of all sizes need daily exercise. Few things make dogs happier than running. However, most of us can't run as fast as our dogs. A dog park provides a safe fenced area where dogs can be off their leashes to run freely. Running strengthens their overall well-being, and it results in less destructive behavior at home. Most dogs get into trouble because they are bored or have too much energy. Running uses up surplus energy and makes dogs calmer.
- 3 I walk my beagle daily, and I often see other people out walking their dogs. Some of us cross routes every day. However, since our dogs are on leashes and eager to keep moving, we rarely have the chance to stop and talk. Building a dog park would solve this problem. It would allow dog owners to get to know one another better and build a strong sense of community.
- 4 Even people who do not have pets will benefit from having a dog park in town. Like most towns, Medway has a rule that dogs must be leashed. Still, I often see dogs running loose in Skeltie Park. I understand that many people do not have fenced yards, and they want to give their dogs a chance to run free for a while. However, it is dangerous to let dogs run unleashed in a public place. They could run away or bother people who may not be comfortable having a strange dog approach them. A dog park is the perfect solution.
- 5 Furthermore, dogs that spend time at a dog park are usually friendlier than dogs that do not. At the park, dogs become more familiar with how to meet new people and other animals. Dogs that have grown accustomed to seeing new people are less likely to bark at neighbors. Dogs that have not had many social experiences are likely to feel threatened by unfamiliar people or animals.

- 6 A dog park does not need to be big in order to offer all these great benefits. Most dog parks are no more than an acre or two in size. The empty meadow south of the soccer field in Skeltie Park would be the ideal place for a dog park. We would not have to worry about parking since there is already a parking lot nearby. Aside from that, a fenced-in space with a few benches is all a dog park would need. Perhaps some of the businesses in town could donate materials or money, and volunteers could build the fence. This would minimize the cost to the town. I am sure many of the dog owners I see daily would be interested in joining a committee to make the dog park a reality. Once the park is built, the volunteer committee could maintain it by mowing grass, emptying trash cans, and doing other chores.
- 7 I hope you will agree that building a dog park within Skeltie Park is a good idea. I would be happy to address any concerns and discuss how best to move forward on this worthwhile project. Thank you for considering this idea.

Sincerely,

Matthew Bayer



11 What is the author's primary purpose in writing the letter?

- A** To explain why dogs are better behaved if they are used to being around people
 - B** To share information about a potential volunteer opportunity at the Medway dog park
 - C** To suggest that many dog owners do not give their pets an opportunity to exercise
 - D** To convince the town council that the citizens of Medway would benefit from a dog park
-

12 The word minimize in paragraph 6 means —

- F** encourage to take action
 - G** reduce
 - H** change on a regular basis
 - J** settle
-

13 How does the author try to convince people that the entire community will benefit from a dog park?

- A** He includes the advantages of a dog park for people who do not have pets.
- B** He restates the fact that the town has a law requiring dogs to be leashed.
- C** He mentions that dog owners should have a fence around their yard for their dog.
- D** He proves that most dog owners feel that their dog is safer on a leash.

14 How does the comparison in paragraph 5 support the author’s main argument?

- F** It suggests that people should avoid approaching a dog they have not met before.
 - G** It reveals that most dogs act in a similar way when encountering new people or animals.
 - H** It demonstrates that most dog owners prefer to have their dogs behave in a friendly way.
 - J** It explains that spending time at a dog park can have a positive effect on the behavior of dogs.
-

15 Which sentence from the letter contains an example of exaggeration?

- A** *I really enjoy going to the local library and playing at the local baseball field.*
- B** *However, there is one thing our town cannot go on without.*
- C** *Few things make dogs happier than running.*
- D** *I walk my beagle daily, and I often see other people out walking their dogs.*

- 16** The author argues that a dog park would be good for dog owners because it would —
- F** provide them with assistance for dog training
 - G** prevent them from walking their dogs on the street
 - H** provide them with a place to talk with one another
 - J** offer them an outdoor area to sit and relax
-

- 17** Why is paragraph 6 important to the author's argument?
- A** It explains that the author has a plan for creating the park.
 - B** It proves that the author has found willing volunteers.
 - C** It shows that the author has experience caring for dog parks.
 - D** It suggests that the author's dog is familiar with the meadow in the park.