

More Than A Dozen U.S. Dog Parks To Get Boost From Beneful® As Part Of 2016 Beneful Dream Dog Park Project

Dog food leader teams up with GoFundMe to promote crowdsourced fundraising campaigns and launches DreamDogPark.com to serve as resource for communities

ST. LOUIS, June 1, 2016 /[PRNewswire](#)/ -- [Beneful](#)® is demonstrating its passion for dog parks again this year by lending a paw to support more than a dozen communities in their effort to improve or build local dog parks. Through its Beneful Dream Dog Park Project, the Beneful team will provide a mix of financial support, hands-on volunteerism and a variety of new resources to share its dog park expertise available at [DreamDogPark.com](#) for fellow dog lovers looking to bring their dog park dreams to life. Beneful is also teaming up with crowdfunding site GoFundMe to encourage more dog lovers to seek and provide financial support for dog park improvement and building projects across the country.

Experience the interactive Multimedia News Release here:

<http://www.multivu.com/players/English/7836151-beneful-dream-dog-park-project/>

"Beneful has been supporting dog parks since 2010, and in the past six years, we've learned a lot about the positive impact dog parks have on communities by experiencing it first-hand with our own four-legged friends," said Brent Gleckler, Beneful brand director and owner of Louie the Bolognese. "That's why we're thrilled to provide continued financial support, grow visibility of dog parks with GoFundMe, and share our expertise through this year's expanded Dream Dog Park Project."

According to a recent survey of dog owners conducted by Beneful¹, 78 percent of dog owners agree their local dog park is a great place to bring their four-legged best friend and provides healthy exercise with other dogs, but 73 percent of respondents agreed their local dog park could use improvements. Beneful also found dog parks don't just benefit dogs, with two-thirds of dog owners agreeing they love their local dog park, too.

"Along with proper nutrition, exercise is one of the most important aspects of a dog's wellbeing," said Dr. Kurt Venator, Purina veterinarian and owner of three Labradors Retrievers, Chance, Thatcher and Sailor. "Walking your dog is a good way to get exercise, but the freedom of being off-leash and the added socialization that dog parks offer both dogs and humans makes them an ideal place to bond with your furry friend."

The 2016 Beneful Dream Dog Park Project will help make dog parks better for both dogs and owners in three ways:

Financial Support with GoFundMe

In joining forces with GoFundMe, Beneful is encouraging dog lovers to create

campaigns for their local dog park projects to raise awareness and funds. Each month, Beneful will support new dog park projects and spotlight a GoFundMe campaign on DreamDogPark.com and via social media channels. Throughout the year, spotlight campaigns will receive dollar-for-dollar donation matching support from Beneful to rally local communities and help campaign organizers reach their campaign goals. The first Beneful Dream Dog Park spotlight campaign is the [Frenchtown Dog Park](#) in St. Louis with Beneful providing matching donations up to \$7,500 until June 30, 2016 to help the organization reach its total goal of raising \$15,000 to expand the dog park. In total, Beneful will commit a minimum of \$75,000 in support to GoFundMe dog park campaigns.

"GoFundMe and Beneful have a shared goal of bringing people together through positive causes that benefit communities," said Rob Solomon, CEO of GoFundMe and owner of Bear the Goldendoodle, Rex the Standard Poodle, JoeJoe the Bernedoodle, and Duke the Toy Poodle. "Our giving community has no shortage of dog lovers, so we're excited to work together for the Beneful Dream Dog Park Project to highlight campaigns that are improving neighborhoods for everyone, canine and human alike."

Expert Support through Resource-Rich Website

To help fellow dog lovers who are looking to improve or build dog parks, the Beneful team has created a trove of educational resources on DreamDogPark.com. The website includes how-to articles for building and creating a dog park from start to finish, tips to galvanize the community around fundraising, as well as important safety advice from Certified Master Pet First Aid/CPR Instructor and cat and dog behavior expert Arden Moore.

Hands-On Support through Volunteerism and Donations

Throughout the year, the Beneful team will be visiting dog parks across the country and working alongside local volunteers to get new projects off the ground and make much-needed improvements to existing community dog parks. Whether it's a clean-up day, painting project or park equipment enhancements, Beneful will help local communities better their dog parks for both dogs and owners. Select dog park projects will receive a financial boost from Beneful in addition to or in lieu of in-person support.

In an effort to engage and motivate the entire Dream Dog Park Project community, Beneful will be calling on dog lovers to join in the effort by sharing Dream Dog Park Project social posts and creating their own posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to trigger dog park donations throughout the year. To kick off the program, for every share or post that tags @Beneful and uses the hashtag #DreamDogPark from now until June 30, 2016, Beneful will put \$1 towards Dream Dog Park projects this year, up to \$50,000.

To track the progress of the 2016 Beneful Dream Dog Park Project, follow and connect with the team on Facebook via [Facebook.com/Beneful](https://www.facebook.com/Beneful), Twitter via [@Beneful](https://twitter.com/Beneful) or Instagram via [@Beneful](https://www.instagram.com/Beneful) and use or follow the hashtag #DreamDogPark.

About Beneful Brand Dog Food

Manufactured by Nestlé Purina PetCare Company, Beneful brand dog food offers a full line of wet and dry formulas that offer a perfect balance of taste and nutrition. Introduced in 2001, Beneful is one of the most successful dog food brands in the Company's history. The North American headquarters for the Nestlé Purina PetCare Company is located at Checkerboard Square in St. Louis, Missouri, where Ralston Purina Company was founded more than a century ago. Nestlé Purina PetCare promotes responsible pet care, community involvement and the positive bond between people and their pets. A premiere global manufacturer of pet products, Nestlé Purina PetCare is part of Swiss-based Nestlé S.A., a global leader in nutrition, health and wellness.

Full Terms: Social Sharing-Based Donations

Beginning at 12:00 a.m. CT on 5/16/16 and ending at 11:59 p.m. CT on 6/30/16, or when the maximum aggregate allocation of \$50,000 is reached, whichever comes first, Nestlé Purina PetCare Company ("Purina") will put \$1.00 towards the Beneful Dream Dog Park Project to support local dog park projects for every post on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram using the #DreamDogPark and @Beneful. Valid in the 50 U.S. and D.C. Must be 18+. Void where prohibited.

For more information about the Beneful Dream Dog Park Project, please visit Beneful.com/DreamDogPark. Distribution of all funds raised shall be determined by Purina, in its sole discretion.

¹ *The 2016 Beneful Dream Dog Park Survey presents the findings of an online survey conducted by Toluna from February 22-24, 2016 among a sample of 1,060 American dog owners 18 years of age and older. The margin of error for a sample of this size is $\pm 3\%$ at a 95% level of confidence.*

SOURCE Beneful

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