



### New Addition of “Canine Cubby” to Martin Dog Park

OCTOBER 27, 2023: The winter 2023 class of the Moore County Leadership Institute (MCLI) has collaborated with the Town of Southern Pines to bring a heartwarming addition to the local community: a "Canine Cubby" donation shed at Martin Dog Park.

The "Canine Cubby" is designed to function like a food pantry. The community-supported cubby helps pet owners in need by providing access to new or gently used pet supplies, toys, and food for their furry companions.

Martin Park is a 50-acre, off-leash dog park, which is part of the Town of Southern Pines' park system. It is open from dawn to dusk throughout the year and is located at 350 Commerce Avenue. Open play areas, wooded sections, greenspace, an obstacle course, natural paths, and a stream provide opportunities for a quiet walk or meeting new friends. The cubby is at the entrance to the park, making it easy for people to access.

To maintain the quality and safety of the donated items, the following guidelines have been established:

- Donations should be in gently used or new condition, clean, and free from dirt, debris, and pet hair. Please do not donate items that are heavily worn, torn, or damaged.
- Pet food or treats should not be expired and the packaging should be sealed in the original container/bag.
- Avoid items that pose a potential safety risk to pets, such as toys with small parts that could be swallowed, items made from toxic materials, or sharp edges or parts that can be easily chewed off.
- Donations should be of good quality and durability. Avoid items that are easily breakable or likely to deteriorate quickly. Consider toys that are suitable for dogs of different sizes and play styles.
- Please ensure that pet beds or blankets are clean, odor-free, and in good condition. Leashes and collars should be functional, without frayed edges or broken clips.
- Donations of grooming supplies, such as brushes, shampoos, and nail clippers, should be new and unopened.
- The cubby is only for pet-related items. Please take clothing or non-pet-related household items to one of the many local organizations that accept those types of donations.
- A whiteboard is posted inside the cubby, allowing donors to share details of larger items, like dog crates, that are available but can't fit inside the cubby. Pet owners may also post requests for items they may need.
- Please be respectful of the cubby and park. Neatly place items inside the cubby and do not leave any donations outside of it.

"We are thrilled to introduce the 'Canine Cubby' at Martin Dog Park," shares Southern Pines Parks & Recreation Director, Cindi King. "Our Martin Park visitors are incredibly generous and community-minded, and this addition will not only enhance the park, but also make a real impact for pet owners in need. It's a testament to the kind and caring community we have here in Southern Pines."

MCLI is a program hosted by the Moore County Chamber of Commerce. The nearly year-long program is designed to support, grow, and develop local business men & women into key leaders within Moore County. Through small groups, MCLI participants plan and execute a community service project. The following MCLI participants worked on the Martin Park Canine Cubby: Bonnie Archibald; Jonah Saunders; Annabeth Rives; Francesca Carter and Kenia Mills (Pinehurst Resort and Country Club); Rachel Drew (The Honor Foundation); Vijay Mohanani (Pinehurst Medical Clinic); and Jessica Roth (Town of Southern Pines).

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[www.sopinesnc.info/dogpark](http://www.sopinesnc.info/dogpark)



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