

# explore LI

TV  
'DA VINCI'S  
DEMONS'  
B24



## barks and rec

4 NEW DOG PARKS  
FOR YOUR BEST FRIEND  
B2

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## livelyivory

**Dueling Pianos** is an all-request, interactive rock and roll party 9 p.m. Friday at **Riverhead's** newest venue, The Suffolk Theater. The evening promises toasts, roasts, games, sing-a-longs and comedy. Admission is \$15, 631-727-4343, [suffolktheater.com](http://suffolktheater.com).



## naturalbeauty

Nature photographer Bob Labuski will share **tips on taking photos** of landscapes, plants and wildlife at Connetquot River State Park Preserve in **Oakdale** 8:30 a.m. Saturday. Call 631-581-1072 to reserve a spot and bring your own camera to this free adults-only class, \$8 parking fee, [nysparks.com](http://nysparks.com).



PHOTO BY BOB LUBESKI

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Hercules and Julius play at the new dog park on Valley Stream's Village Green, featuring soft-on-the-paws artificial turf.

PHOTO BY BRUCE GILBERT

# ear-flapping romps

New parks give pooches a chance to run around and socialize

BY SYLVIA E. KING-COHEN  
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It's been a good year for dogs — a slew of new parks opened, giving canines even more places to run, play and socialize with other dogs, all under the watchful eyes of their owners.



**ON THE COVER** Two dogs chomp on the same stick at a new dog park in Massapequa.

"It really is wonderful to go to a dog park and see the dogs running around, playing and having a good time," says Ginny Munger Kahn, president of the Long Island Dog Owners Group, which has worked with counties and municipalities to increase the number of dog parks on the Island.

Most parks open around 8 a.m. and close at dusk. Here's a look at some of the newest parks:

### Calverton

**WHERE** Isaac Park, on the Grumman site, Route 25  
**INFO** 631-727-5744, [townofriverheadny.gov](http://townofriverheadny.gov)  
**ADMISSION** Free, open to Town of Riverhead residents, no permit required.

The half-acre plot has lots of trees providing shade. Picnic tables and permanent seating make it comfortable for owners, too. Good to know: There's no water for dogs, so you'll want to bring your own.

### East Meadow

**WHERE** Eisenhower Park, Salisbury Park Drive and Stewart Avenue  
**INFO** 516-572-0347,

[nassaucountyny.gov/parks](http://nassaucountyny.gov/parks)  
**ADMISSION** Free, open to Nassau County residents, no permit required.

Eisenhower Park's new 1/2-acre park is a busy place. While there isn't much shade, dogs do have lots of room to run. "When he's here, he's all over the place," says Victoria Podesta, 29, of Westbury, referring to her puggle. "We come here two to three times a week. It is a nice place for people to socialize, and the park is big enough that the dogs aren't right on top of each other."

### Massapequa

**WHERE** Clocks Boulevard, off Loudon Avenue and Sunrise Highway



## dogdays

**WHEN | WHERE** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday (vendors 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday) at Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd. **INFO** 516-333-0048, oldwestburygardens.org **ADMISSION** \$8 (\$3 ages 7-17)

This two-day event allows leashed dogs to enjoy the grounds at Old Westbury Gardens and a

slate of dog-related activities.

"We should still have a few wildflowers and daffodils, and the tulips will just start coming up," says Vince Kish, communications director.

Saturday, visitors can visit vendors, exhibits and have their dogs go through Canine Good Citizen testing for good manners. The day also includes a mock dog show hosted by the Big Apple Sporting Society.



Leo, a Husky, is eager to fetch for owner Alexandra Levine at the Town of Oyster Bay's new dog park in Massapequa.

PHOTO BY BRUCE GILBERT

**INFO** 516-797-4128, oysterbaytown.com **ADMISSION** Free, open to Town of Oyster Bay residents.

At just larger than one acre, this park has open areas for running and wooded areas for shade. With ample seating and water sources in the large- and small-dog areas, it's a treat for Town of Oyster Bay dogs — and their owners. "She just goes from group to group having a great time," says Don Marlow, 42, of Farmingdale, who was visiting with his 16-month-old dog, Mia. "It is big enough for multiple groups of dogs, so she always has someone to play with."

## Valley Stream

**WHERE** 123 S. Central Ave. **INFO** 516-825-4200, valleystream.govoffice.com **ADMISSION** \$18 annual pass for village residents (\$55 for Central High School District residents).

This quarter-acre park is packed with amenities, including a ground cover of colorful synthetic turf. "The dogs love it because it is soft on their feet," says village clerk Bob Barra. The large dog area has a small obstacle course and an incline area. "Even in the freezing cold and driving rainstorms, there will be dogs in there running around," Barra says.