



CITY OF BELFAST

131 Church Street
Belfast, Maine 04915

Pamela J. Salokangas, CPRE, CPSI
Parks & Recreation Director

Email: parksandrec@cityofbelfast.org
Phone: (207) 338-3370, ext. 127

For immediate release: September 25, 2025
Photographers requested.

NEW MEMORIAL BY SCULPTOR GARY COOPER TO BE REVEALED!

Belfast, ME—A wonderful new bronze memorial sculpture--“Best Friend”--designed by local Belfast sculptor, Gary Cooper, will be revealed at a dedication ceremony on Wednesday, October 15, 4-4:30 PM. The event will take place just outside of the Belfast Dog Park, located at the Walsh Field Recreation Area, 128 Lincolnville Road (Route 52). This event isn’t just for the people, but for the dogs too!

Make your way from the parking lot, down the sidewalk, past the restrooms, to the memorial site, just before the sidewalk bears right toward the entrance to the Belfast Dog Park. Belfast Mayor Eric Sanders will serve as our emcee, and two local charities will also be on-hand to say a few words about our local animal supporters. The charities will include Waldo County Pet Food Pantry and the Safe Harbor Sanctuary. Mr. Cooper will also say a few words about his vision and design for the “Best Friend” sculpture.

"This kind of collaboration has been a wonderful experience! Gary reached out to the Belfast Parks and Recreation Department to inquire about the possibility of executing this project, and since then, the ball has been rolling downhill toward this very special day to include Belfast City Council’s approval to finishing the sculpture to choosing the granite. It has been a pleasure working with Gary as he has been excited about every step and has been an active participant in every decision. We are very proud to host this special memorial for ‘All of Our Best Friends,’” says Director Pam Salokangas.

We invite the general public, all Belfast Dog Park users, and anyone who supports the two charities noted above to join us at Walsh Field Recreation Area on October 15, and we encourage you to bring your dogs too! Some special treats will be available for the four-leggeds!

If for some reason there is inclement weather, please watch our Facebook page for weather updates. The rain date will be Friday, October 17 at 4 PM in the same location.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED INVITATION FOR THE EVENT!

###



"Best Friend" Dedication



Bronze, 14.0" diameter x 2.25" ● Sculptor: Gary Cooper, Belfast, Maine

Belfast Dog Park

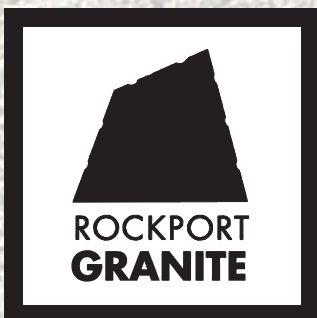
October 15, 2025 – 4-4:30 PM

Walsh Field Recreation Area ● 128 Lincolnville Avenue (Route 52)
Belfast, Maine 04915

Celebrating All of Our Best Friends

THANK YOU...

PLEASE SUPPORT...



Because Vets and Pets is our Passion!

(or animal charity of your choice)