

Tucker and Mrs. Beasley play chase at Pilgrim Bark Park.



Pilgrim's progress: Bark Park, Provincetown



COURTESY DEBORAH GRABLER

Another day in the sun at Pilgrim Bark Park

Provincetown, Mass.'s Pilgrim Bark Park, divided into a main section and a small dog area, sits on an acre of fenced land near pet-friendly town beaches as well as the Cape Cod National Seashore beaches. "Human visitors soak in the art as they rest on benches and granite blocks while their dogs socialize," says Sally Rose, a longtime park visitor.

The park reflects both the community's love for its four-legged friends and its appreciation for the arts. Local artists have contributed a small-scale Mayflower ship, a bronze whale tail sculpture, a 26-foot steel sculpture of silhouetted dogs, fire hydrants painted as the canine versions of service officers, a big dog house at the entrance, and a variety of other artistic renderings to enhance the park.

The nearby Clapps Pond, across the highway from the park, offers post-park hiking options and also provides a spring serenade of frogs chorusing.

The park is open from dawn to dusk. Two-year-old Tucker, Rose's energetic and social Australian Shepherd, thrives in all four seasons at Pilgrim Bark Park. "Although winter may be dreary for humans, the dogs romp at Bark Park in the snow with unbridled enthusiasm," Rose says.

In all seasons, residents and tourists meet up at the park at varying times of the day to exercise their dogs and enjoy fellow-dog-loving company. "Tucker's been far too busy socializing to notice the artwork," Rose says. "But true to our community's roots, Tucker and his friends often hang out around the Mayflower!"