

# What is a dog park

A dog park is a clearly defined location where dog owners can safely and legally exercise and socialize their dog's off-leash in a controlled environment. Generally, they are enclosed with some type of fencing to prevent or restrict the dog from leaving the designated area. Most have double gates at the entrances to allow entering and exiting the park to either unleash or leash your pet, but is restrained by the double gate system. Many dog parks have separate areas for large dogs over 25 pounds and dogs less than 25 pounds. Some dog parks have separate areas for when dog fights break out or a dog exhibits unusual behavior, that a dog can be placed in these segregated areas to act as a cooling off period, rather than leaving the park altogether.

Off-leash dog parks provide a social setting in which people can gather and interact in friendship. Dog parks are places where dog owners and non dog owners can delight in the entertaining and interesting interaction of dogs at play. People somehow find it easier to converse with others with dogs as the initial focus, breaking down the usual social barriers that make people in our society perceive others as "strangers."

Dogs improve people's health and increase resistance to disease by providing companionship and unconditional love. Dogs give people something to care for, providing pleasurable activity, such as exercise and providing a source of constancy in our changing lives, stimulate by providing comfort with touch, and being a pleasure to watch.

Dog parks reduce the likelihood that dogs will be let loose in park areas where they could interfere with other park users such as bicyclists, skate-boarders, rollerblading, hikers, and children at play. Providing separate areas for dogs to exercise, segregates dog owners from other users and reduce the risk of collisions, etc. Years of experience at dog parks across the country indicate that dogs are less aggressive in open areas because they are on neutral territory and not constrained by their leashes. Dog Parks allow dogs to learn socialization skills, provides exercise opportunities, tend to bark less in public, and tend to be less destructive at home.

Dedicated dog parks improve public health by keeping dog waste confined to one area. Peer pressure encourages dog owners to pick up after their dogs and keep the park clean. Dog parks provide a centralized area to provide information on dog health, veterinary services, boarding, training, etc.

Amenities could include some or all of the following, but are not limited to these. Items such as water fountains for dogs & humans alike, cooling stations, agility equipment, fire hydrants, outdoor lighting, lakes, ponds, or flowing water, additional shade for all, waste bags and containers for pet waste, tools for picking up pet waste, and benches.

Clear rules and guidelines are generally posted at all entrances to the Dog Park and a composite of the rules are listed below.

# What is a dog park

## **PLEASE READ AND COMPLY WITH ALL OF THE FOLLOWING RULES**

By entering this dog park, the park user agrees to hold The City of xxxxx, Parks & Recreation of xxxxx, and xxxxx, harmless and free from liability from any action of any park users or their dogs. Park users agree to fully comply with posted rules and take full legal liability from any action of their own or their dogs. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

### **Hours of Operation: 7 AM to Sunset**

Dogs must be leashed prior to entering and upon leaving the park.

Dog owners are solely responsible for the actions and behavior of their dogs. Please ensure dogs do not escape the fenced area.

Animals other than dogs are not allowed.

Owners must carry a leash & their dog's vaccination certificate while in the park.

All Dogs must have current rabies and all other vaccinations as required by XXX County & XXX Public Health Departments, are licensed, free from contagious diseases and parasites.

Dogs must wear a collar with identification & license tags at all times.

Dogs must be in view of and within voice control of their owner / handler at all times. Immediately leash your dog and leave the park if aggressive behavior is observed.

Never leave your dog unattended.

Limit 3 dogs per person per visit.

No female dogs in heat. Spayed / neutered animals are recommended.

No puppies under 4 months of age.

Clean up after your dog. Fill any holes your dog may dig.

Dogs with a known history of dangerous or aggressive behavior are prohibited.

No children under 10 years of age allowed.

Children over the age of 10 must be closely supervised and must behave appropriately: no running, shouting, chasing dogs, petting of other's dogs without the owner's permission.

No food or drink, (Human or Dog) or smoking allowed in the park.

Absolutely no bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades, scooters, or any motorized vehicles except those required for the physically challenged are allowed.

Persons are encouraged to wear shoes while in the Dog Park.