

Dog Off-Leash Area Guidelines

Rules and Agreement



Off-leash areas are designated sites where dogs are given the freedom to run and interact with other dogs. Parks at Three Rivers have both fenced and unfenced off-leash areas where you can let your dog run while you enjoy the scenic surroundings and meet other owners.

OFF-LEASH AREAS

Bryant Lake Regional Park (9.3 acres) Enclosed by fence, fenced-in pond area, separate area for small or frail dogs.

Carver Park Reserve (27 acres) Enclosed by fence, separate area for small or frail dogs.

Cleary Lake Regional Park (28 acres) Enclosed by fence, fenced-in pond area.

Crow-Hassan Park Reserve (~40 acres) Not fenced.

Elm Creek Park Reserve (29 acres) Enclosed by fence, fenced-in pond area, separate area for small or frail dogs.

Fish Lake Regional Park (6.7 acres) Enclosed by fence, separate area for small or frail dogs.

Lake Sarah Regional Park (~29.5 acres) Enclosed by fence, separate area for small or frail dogs.

Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve (3 acres) Enclosed by fence, separate area for small or frail dogs.

Spring Lake Regional Park (10 acres) Enclosed by fence, separate area for small or frail dogs.

GENERAL RULES

- Annual Pass fees are per household; each family member 16 years and older must have their own pass. All off-leash area users must carry a pass with them.
- Purchase day passes at <https://www.threeriversparks.org/webtrac> or the pay box at the off-leash area entrance.
- Purchase annual passes by visiting <https://www.threeriversparks.org/webtrac> or calling 763-559-6700. Annual passes are valid for 365 days from purchase.
- If you have an annual pass but forget it, purchase a day pass to avoid a citation/fine. Lost annual pass cards can be replaced for a nominal fee at a staffed facility or by calling 763-559-6700.
- Dogs **MUST** be under handler's control. Aggressive behavior is not acceptable.
- Maximum two dogs per handler.
- Clean up after your dog.
- Proof of rabies vaccination must be in possession.
- When outside of off-leash area, dogs must be on a leash.

BY PURCHASING THIS PASS, YOU AGREE:

- To read and abide by the Dog Off-Leash Rules.
- To use the areas at your own risk.
- To release, indemnify, and hold harmless Three Rivers Park District, its employees, volunteers, and officials from liability, claims, causes of action, judgments, damages, losses, costs or expenses for any and all injuries or property damage.
- The Park District has the authority to close a portion or an entire Dog Off-Leash area at any time due to weather conditions or area-related maintenance.
- Failure to adhere to Park District Ordinances, Rules, and Agreement, may result in a citation and/or revocation of pass. The Park District reserves the right to reject or cancel passes for any reason.

BEFORE YOU GO

Can I bring my puppy if they aren't old enough for a rabies shot?

No, puppies that are too young for a rabies shot may not visit the off-leash areas.

What kind of collar can my dog wear in the off-leash area?

A plain, flat buckle or snap collar is best. Remove metal collars such as choke chains and prong collars that can get caught on objects and injure other dogs during play.

Can I bring my child?

Yes. Ages 15 and younger must be supervised by an adult. Do not allow your child to approach a dog without first asking the owner's permission. Immediately move your child away from a dog if the owner asks you to do so.

Can I bring food or toys?

A few training treats are allowed; all other food items should be left at home. Toys are allowed, but be aware that some dogs may be possessive of toys. Make sure to grab all of your belongings when you leave.

Is there a place I can train my dog for hunting?

Lake Sarah and Crow-Hassan dog off-leash areas allow starter pistols with a Special Use Permit from the Park Supervisor. Use of firearms or devices considered firearms is prohibited under federal law.

ENTERING AND LEAVING

Do I have to leash my dog if they run straight from my vehicle to the off-leash area entrance?

Yes, dogs must be leashed in the parking lot to avoid being hit by a vehicle. Unleashed dogs also can be threatening to a dog that is leashed.

What is the best way to enter or leave the off-leash area with my dog?

To prevent escapes and territorial behavior, please watch for other dogs when entering and leaving the double-gated area and call your dog away from the gate if others are entering or leaving.

Upon arrival, keep your dog leashed and enter the double-gated area. When the gate is closed behind you, unleash your dog and enter the off-leash area. Take your dog away from the entry area; do not congregate near the entrance.

When leaving, enter the double-gated area and close the gate behind you. Leash your dog, return to the parking lot with your dog on leash, and quickly close the gate behind you.

USING THE OFF-LEASH AREAS

Can dogs swim in off-leash area ponds? Is it safe for my dog?

Visitors can have their dogs swim in the off-leash area ponds at their own risk. The ponds are not tested for potentially harmful parasites or bacteria. Staff may periodically close the ponds due to reports of illness or visual observation of water quality concerns.

Can I leash my dog in the off-leash area?

Once inside the area, dogs should normally be off-leash, except as a temporary measure to re-direct activity. Do not let your unleashed dog approach leashed dogs; a leashed dog cannot escape a tense or scary situation, making its behavior less predictable.

What kind of dog behavior is acceptable?

Acceptable play includes chasing, wrestling, growling and mouthing. Although play usually is fine, keep close supervision to prevent it from becoming too rough. Behaviors not allowed include body-slammings, mounting, continuous barking and being territorial.

Another owner asked me to take my dog away from their dog, but my dog just wants to play. What should I do?

Call your dog to you. Please respect other users' concerns and comply with requests to separate dogs, even if their behavior appears normal to you.

I'm concerned about another dog's behavior towards my dog. What should I do?

Speak up! Say to the other owner, "We need to separate these dogs. Please call your dog away, and I'll call mine." If necessary, repeat the request. Then, walk in opposite directions.

What should I do if my dog or I get injured?

Injuries are very uncommon but may occur during normal play or occasionally because of aggressive behavior. Remain calm and be courteous. Exchange contact information with the other owner(s) and any witnesses. Trade rabies vaccination numbers with the other owner(s). If you must leave for immediate veterinary attention, ask a witness to get this information. If the other owner refuses to provide contact information, get their vehicle's license plate number and report it to Three Rivers Park District Police. For human and serious dog injuries, call 911 and ask for Three Rivers Park District Police.

Remember: Every owner is responsible for damage or harm caused by his/her dog.

What should I do if I observe an unsafe situation?

Call 911 and ask for Three Rivers Park District Police. At Cleary Lake, Murphy-Hanrehan and Spring Lake, ask for Scott County Sheriff's Department. If you have any other questions about the off-leash areas, visit [ThreeRiversParks.org](https://www.threeriversparks.org) or call 763.559.9000

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