

PETIQUETTE

“The Barking Lot” Rules and Regulations

Following these rules will make your dog park visit a pleasant one for everyone. All park patrons must comply with the posted rules for the safety of everyone and every dog.

- 🐾 **Watch your dog!**
- 🐾 First Time Users should visit the dog park during non-peak times. First time visits can be stressful for dogs **and** owners.
- 🐾 All park gates must remain closed at all times other than during entry and/or exit.
- 🐾 Aggressive dogs are not permitted in the park
 - a. Owners of aggressive dogs risk harming others and creating a liability for themselves.
 - b. If your dog displays continual (more than two times within one visit) aggressive or mounting behavior, leash him or her and remove them from the situation.
 - c. Owners are solely responsible for preventing injuries and offering assistance to those injured by their dog(s). If your dog inflicts injury, give your name and telephone number to the other owner **before leaving the park.**
- 🐾 Dogs in heat are not permitted in the park.
- 🐾 Puppies under 4 months of age are not permitted to use the park to protect their own health.
- 🐾 All dogs using the park must have current certificate of vaccination against rabies.
- 🐾 **All dogs must be under voice control.**
- 🐾 No toys or treats are allowed in the park. This will prevent dominance issues.
- 🐾 All waste must be bagged and disposed of immediately, completely, and properly.
 - a. Do not wait to collect your dog’s waste – **all eyes will be on you!**
 - b. All areas both in and outside the dog park must remain clean and clear of dog waste, litter, and cigarette butts.
 - c. Please refrain from smoking in general congregative areas.
- 🐾 Fill any holes your dog digs.
- 🐾 Ask for owner permission to approach a dog before befriending him/her. Use caution when permitting curious dogs to greet yours, both in and outside the dog park.
- 🐾 Owners must be with their dogs at all times. Do not bring more dogs than you can handle!
- 🐾 Dogs must have a collar or harness displaying a current license and be held by a leash while entering and/or exiting the park.
- 🐾 If an owner is asked to leash their dog due to behavior, the owner should honor that request.
- 🐾 Bike riding, skateboarding, rollerblading, and skating are prohibited inside the dog park.
- 🐾 No glass receptacles or alcohol is permitted inside the park **at any time.**

WHAT IS A DOG PARK?

A healthy lifestyle which includes fresh air, active pursuits, socializing and having fun; is just as important to humans, as it is for dogs. A dog park gives the opportunity to dogs and owners to socialize and to legally exercise off-leash in a safe area. A dog park also promotes responsibility from the dog owner.

A dog park can be many things, but in many cities across the nation, it is a fenced in area designated specifically for the purpose of off-leash socialization and play for dogs. Our 2 acre dog park at Turkey Brook Park will be divided into two areas: the general area, and the small dog area.

There are many benefits to having a Dog Park: for the dog, the owner and the community.

- A dog that has had sufficient exercise will: be calmer, healthier, be better neighbors that are less likely to create a nuisance, bark excessively, destroy property, or learn anti-social behavior.
- Owners, including the elderly and disabled now have the opportunity to exercise (themselves and) their dogs and make new friends at the same time, as well as once again feel connected to their community. Individuals who are normally shy, discover they can talk about dogs easily, and no matter what the social layer an individual may be in, the dog has shown itself to be the bridge that links all social levels together by opening a channel of communication.
- The community benefits include law enforcement of dog control laws, sports fields are not being damaged by unleashed dogs and responsible pet ownership is developed.

The community of the dog park, as it develops, also develops the sense of Responsible Dog Ownership. It is undeniable that our country has a pet overpopulation problem. There is an estimated 12 million dogs in shelters across the country. 80% of these dogs do not live beyond the age of two years. The American Humane Society, (stresses spay/neuter programs), indicates that one of the major reasons a dog is relinquished to a shelter is because the dog has not been trained or sufficiently exercised.. The spay/neuter programs, education, training and the availability of a dog park, all help to keep a good dog out of the humane society or to be needlessly euthanized.

Come out and visit our Dog Park in Turkey Brook Park (all the way into the interior of the park, past baseball field on the hill). It is open year round (weather permitting) from 8am until dusk.