



Dog Park Recommendations

Frequently Asked Question

September 2010

What recommendations are there for the operation of dog parks?

The Safety Director offers the following considerations:

- **Chain link fencing around the perimeter**

Minimum six foot high fencing is recommended to keep people off the fence.

- **Two gate system**

The municipality should design a two gate system at the entrance to keep dogs from escaping when you open the gate. The first gate lets you into the secure containment area and you lock the gate behind you. Then you open the second gate to let your dog into the dog park proper. This gating area should be at least 8ft X 8ft, to promote separation of entering and exiting dogs.

- **Shade Trees**

It is a good idea to have some shade trees in the park with fencing or park benches around the perimeter of the trees to keep dogs from killing the trees with uric acid. It's also advisable to provide shade trees and benches outside the park.

- **Automatic Dog Watering System**

It's a good idea to have an automatic dog watering system inside the perimeter. This also keeps people from bringing watering bowls and water bottles to the park where they leave the items..

- **Refuse containers**

Refuse containers should be provided along with plastic doggie poop baggies and a "pooper scooper". Post signs indicating that owners are responsible for picking up and disposing of the poop.

- **Signs should be provided**

Signage may include:

- Town residents only
- Owners responsible for control of their dogs
- Animals other than dogs are prohibited.
- All dogs to be properly licensed and vaccinated. Tags must be visibly present on canine.
- Enter at own risk - park is not supervised
- Dogs must be leashed outside the containment area and inside gate-lock area
- Children under 8 years of age prohibited inside the dog park
- Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible adult

This bulletin is intended for general information purposes only. It should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion regarding any specific or factual situation. Always follow your organization's policies and procedures as presented by your manager or supervisor. For further information regarding this bulletin, please contact your Safety Director at 877.398.3046.