



Off-Leash Recreation Program

The Off-Leash Recreation Program has been designed to meet the needs of the City's dog owners who want off-leash time while sharing park space with other park users. Sharing our parks helps us maximize the use and enjoyment we all receive from our open spaces.



Phone: 617-796-1500

E-mail: parks@newtonma.gov

<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/parks/city/offleash/default.asp>

How the Program Works

Before you go to the Park:

- 1) License your dog and make sure vaccinations are current. Put license and identification on dog's collar.
- 2) Resident/Non-resident off-leash medallion must be worn by the dog.
- 3) Professional Dog Walker medallion must be worn by the person responsible for the off-leash dogs. ID must be available upon request.
- 4) Make sure your dog is under voice control (dog responds to and obeys your verbal commands).
- 5) Find a park near you with off-leash hours.
- 6) Bring along your dog's leash and bags for waste.

At the park:

- 1) Keep your dog on-leash until you are in the designated off-leash area.
- 2) Keep your leash on hand at all times.
- 3) Check for "Park Closed" signs, wet fields, crews working in the park, or permitted activities, all of which mean off-leash hours are suspended.
- 4) Pick up after your dog and encourage others to do the same.
- 5) Keep your dog in sight and under voice control at all times.
- 6) Be mindful of your dog. Many people do not like unfamiliar dogs approaching them, and only you know whether your dog is friendly to other people or dogs.
- 7) Enjoy some off-leash fun with your dog!

How to obtain an off-leash permit/medallion

Permits may be obtained at the

City Clerks Office,
City Hall-First Floor
1000 Commonwealth Ave, 02459.
617-796-1200

<http://www.newtonma.gov/city-clerk/index.htm>

Office Hours:

Monday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Tuesday, 8:30 am - 8:00 pm
Wednesday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Please bring with you:

- Proof of Dog License
- Proof of Current Rabies Certificate
- Fee

Resident \$50.00/dog

Non-Resident \$100.00/dog

Resident/Non-resident medallion must be worn by the dog.

Professional Dog Walkers:

Newton
\$250.00/1st medallion
\$75.00 each additional medallion

Non-Newton
\$350.00/1st medallion
\$100.00 each additional medallion

Professional Dog Walker medallion must be worn by the professional dog walker and ID must be available upon request.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why do I need an off-leash area permit? And where does my money go when I pay for the off-leash permit?

A: The off-leash program has rules to protect the experience of all users of city land. There are also costs associated with the creation of this program (fencing at some sites, waste bag dispensers & bags, signs, turf maintenance, and spot-checking to see that rules are being followed). An off-leash permit gives the best chance of having a successful off-leash program that is enjoyable for all concerned.

Q: Why do I need to license my dog?

A: Massachusetts state law requires that all dogs be licensed, and have a current rabies vaccination. Licensing is critical to ensuring the health of our canine friends and other people, and can help identify your dog if they become lost. For more information, contact the City Clerk, 617-796-1200.

Q: How do I get more information or make suggestions about the program?

A: The Parks & Recreation Commission, and the Parks & Recreation Department welcome your questions & comments. Please check our website for further information and updates at:

<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/parks/city/offleash/default.asp>

or call us at 617-796-1500 or e-mail parks@newtonma.gov.

Q: How do I report violations?

A: To report off-leash or other violations, particularly aggressive dogs, contact the Newton Animal Control Officer at 617.796.2109.

Off-Leash Areas & Hours

1. Old Cold Spring Park - Open

Dawn to Dusk –year round

Open field only– no off-leash dogs on the trails

Enter from the Beacon Street entrance

2. Newton Centre Playground – Open

Dawn to Noon-year round

20 dog off-leash limit at any one time

Enter from Centre St., Homer St., Tyler Terrace, Bowen St.

3. Cabot Park-Open

Sun-Sat 7am-dusk

Fenced area only

Enter from corner of Newtonville Avenue & Eastside Parkway

4. Claflin Playground - Open

Mon-Fri: 9am-3pm Sat-Sun:

Dawn-1pm

Closed Dec 15-March 15

Enter from Lowell Ave

Off-Leash Areas & Hours

5. McGrath Park- Open

Dawn-Dusk-year round

Fenced area by tennis courts only

Parking in P & R parking spaces only

Enter from Washington Street gate opening

6. Hunnewell Park -Open

Dawn to Dusk - year round

Fenced in area only

Park & enter from New Balance parking lot

7. Braceland Playground— Open

Open dawn-dusk—Closed Dec 15-March 15

Lower Tier –bottom of hill only



Rules & Regulations

The Parks & Recreation Commissioner has the authority to temporarily or permanently close, or modify the boundaries of off-leash areas for any reason including the following: environmental damage, failure to comply with rules and regulations, public health or safety, or serious unanticipated problems affecting other park users. Violators are subject to fines, removal from the off-leash area, and suspension of off-leash privileges.

Rules & Regulations

Sec. 3-30 Dogs Off-Leash Program

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Sec. 3-26(a) Restraint of Dogs, in areas officially designated as a "Designated Off -Leash Area" by the commissioner of parks and recreation, a dog may be permitted off-leash under the following minimum conditions, and subject to any additional rules, regulations, and restrictions that may from time to time be in effect for an off-leash area.

(1) The dog shall at all times be accompanied by and under the control of a person, who shall ensure that the animal does not disturb the surrounding area by excessive barking, and shall ensure that it does not disturb or threaten other dogs or persons using the designated off-leash area or surrounding area;

(2) The dog shall be leashed prior to entering and upon exiting the designated off-leash area.

Rules & Regulations (cont...)

(3) Any dog left unattended is subject to impoundment by the Newton police;

(4) The person in charge of a dog inside a designated off-leash area shall, in accordance with Section 3-29, immediately remove and as soon as practicable properly dispose of any fecal waste deposited by that dog.

(5) The dog shall wear a collar with identification at all times, be licensed and vaccinated, healthy and parasite free.

(6) Dogs must be at least four months old to be allowed off-leash.

(7) The number of dogs per person in a designated off-leash area is limited to three, unless otherwise specified in the rules and regulations pertaining to a particular off-leash area.

(8) The person in charge of a dog or dogs must at all times carry a leash for each dog under that person's supervision.

(9) The dog owner and/or person in charge of a dog are responsible to ensure that the dog's activity conforms to all rules and regulations pertaining to the off-leash area, as well as for any injury to persons or animals, or damage to public or private property caused by the dog.

(10) No person shall bring a female dog in heat into any designated off-leash area.

(11) Any dog which is the subject of a complaint, investigation, order or proceeding under Section 3-25 or Section 3-27 of this ordinance, and/or under General Laws Chapter 140, section 157 shall be banned from designated off-leash areas.

(e) Penalties. The owner and/or the person in charge of a dog in a designated off-leash area who fails to control said dog or who violates any of the rules, regulations or restrictions pertaining to the designated off-leash area shall be subject to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each offense.