DOG PARKS

MONROE COUNTY DOG PARK FAQ

How do I register my dog to use the dog parks?

All owners must register their dogs with the Monroe County Department of Parks. Dogs can be registered during normal business hours: M – F 8:30am – 4:30pm at 171 Reservoir Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620. You will need a current copy of your dog(s) license with current address, a copy of current Rabies Certificate, completed permit, and a signed Acknowledgement, Agreement, and Release form. Permit and Acknowledgement, Agreement, and Release forms are available only where you register. There is a $24 per dog fee that can be paid via cash or check. Credit card payments can only be taken at the Parks Department. Credit card payments will be $25 per dog which includes service fees. Staff will also be available at the park for registration periodically. Call 753-PARK or go to monroecounty.gov for information on upcoming on-site registration dates and times. When registering your dog at the park, in addition to copies of your forms, please bring a check or money order made payable to "Monroe County Parks Department" for the exact amount ($24.00 per dog). Cash and credit cards cannot be accepted at on-site registrations.

Does my registration and permit expire?

Dog Park registration tags and permits expire December 31st. You will need to register your dog(s) each year to receive your new registration tag and permit.

Why does my dog need to be registered?

By requiring dogs to need a registration tag and permit, we are able to ensure that all dogs are licensed and have been vaccinated for rabies. Additionally, the money collected from the registration fee goes directly to the maintenance, improvements, and construction of dog parks in Monroe County.

What vaccines does my dog need?

The only vaccine required by New York State Law is the Rabies Vaccine. However, you may wish to discuss the following with your veterinarian before bringing your dog to a dog park: DHPP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvo) Vaccine; Leptospirosis Vaccine; Kennel Cough (Bordetella) Vaccine; Flea and Tick prevention; and Heartworm prevention.

How many dogs can I register?

You may register all dogs licensed to you at your current address. The registration fee must be paid for each dog.

Where does the registration money go?

All registration money will be deposited into the Monroe County Dog Park Trust Fund. This trust fund is used to build and maintain dog parks in Monroe County.

Can I transfer my dog's registration tag?

No.

What if I lose my tag?

Replacement tags are available at the Monroe County Parks Department at: 171 Reservoir Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620 during normal business hours. M – F 8:30am – 4:30pm. The fee to replace a tag is $5. You must bring a copy of your current dog park permit.

What are the hours of the dog park?

The dog park is open the following hours:

October 15th – March 15th - Monday – Sunday 7:00am – 5:00pm
March 15th – October 15th - Monday – Sunday 7:00am – 9:00pm

There are no lights at the dog park. The dog park may close without notice for maintenance and/or repairs.

How do I enter/exit the park?

Dog parks are neutral ground for most dogs and to keep it this way, never bring your dog into the off-leash area while on a leash. The double gated system allows you to enter a safe area at which time you can unleash your dog prior to entering the off-leash area. Once in the park, move away from the gate so that other dogs aren't intimidated at the entrance. When you are done in the off-leash area, bring your dog into the double gated area before re-leashing your dog. Always be sure to secure the gate behind you and check to make sure all gates are secure before bringing your dog into the double gated area to leash or unleash.

When is the dog fountain open?

The water fountains will be closed from late fall to early spring to prevent the water lines from freezing. Please plan on bringing your own water during this time period.

Why can't my large dog play in the small dog area?

This is strictly a safety issue. While some large dogs may be slow and gentle, toy breeds in particular can easily be harmed. The dog park needs to be safe for dogs of all sizes.

Why is there a stone surface?

A stone surface (crushed limestone stone dust) was chosen based on research conducted by the Monroe County Department of Parks and other dog parks around the country. A stone surface provides both the safest and most sanitary surface option. Other surface options researched include grass and mulch. A grass surface would not hold-up to the extra wear and tear caused by the dogs in a confined area. The grass would soon be worn down and the dirt would alternate between mud and dust. Wood chips and mulch were also considered and ruled out, based primarily on sanitary concerns.

If you have concerns about the stone surface, please discuss this matter with your veterinarian.

How do I prevent a dog fight?

The best prevention is to never let your dog leave your sight. If you notice a dog becoming aggressive, ask the owner to remove the dog from the park to cool down or go home for the day. If the owner is not receptive, remove your dog promptly from the park.

If your dog becomes aggressive or begins playing too rough, take your dog out of the park to cool down. As always, if a situation becomes dangerous, call 911.

What do I do if there is a dog fight?

Remain calm. Loud yelling, screaming, and/or quick movements can unintentionally increase arousal. ***Never get in between two dogs fighting or you can risk injury to yourself.*** Many experts suggest diverting the dogs with a loud noise such as an air horn or a blast of water from a sports bottle. There will be many scuffles as dogs will be dogs. Dog fights are rare in dog parks, but the potential is there. Please talk with your veterinarian if you have concerns about breaking-up a dog fight involving your dog.

If your dog is involved in a dog fight, exchange information with the other owner. Be sure to include your name, phone numbers, and vaccination records.

If your dog is not involved in the fight, remove your dog from the off-leash area. As a courtesy, you should remain nearby until the situation is under control and make sure everyone (dogs and people) are all okay.

If any of the dogs involved in the incident are clearly aggressive or dangerous, call 911.

Why can't I bring children under 10 years old into the dog park?

The dog park is for dogs and owners. Small children take attention away from your dog, and children aren't always a good mix with fast moving large dogs or little scrappy dogs. It is important for owners to concentrate on their dog(s) and make the dog parks as safe as possible for everyone.

Why can't I bring food or dog treats into the dog park?

Food is one of the most common aggressive triggers with dogs. While there may be no intention of dropping a piece of doughnut or sandwich, crumbs can easily lead to acts of aggression.

Why can't I leave my dog's prong, pinch, spiked, or choke collar on?

These collars are very easy for other dogs to get tangled in while playing. For the dog's safety it is important to take these collars off before entering the dog park.

Why can't I bring my puppy?

Puppies under six (6) months of age are not permitted in the dog park for two primary reasons. The first reason is that their play may offend older or more aggressive dogs. The second reason is that they aren't old enough to have their full series of puppy vaccinations. If you are looking to socialize your puppy in a safe setting please look for puppy classes or puppy daycare.

How can I support the dog parks?

The Monroe County Dog Parks are a reality because of the many generous donations made over the years. Funds raised will continue to go to the Monroe County Dog Park Trust Fund, in order to fund maintenance, improvements, and future dog parks. You can mail a tax-deductible donation to:

Monroe County Parks Department
171 Reservoir Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620

Please make your check payable to, "Monroe County Parks Department" and include the words, "Dog Park Trust Fund" on the memo line.

Fence sections and benches are also available. Please call 753-PARK or go online to www.monroecounty.gov/dog_park for more details.

What if my dog(s) uses the park without a permit and registration tag?

Owners who allow their dogs to enter the dog park without having the proper registration tag and permit are in violation of the Monroe County Parks Law and subject to potential fines and/or imprisonment.

What do I do if I see an unregistered dog in the park?

As the parks are self patrolled, it is everyone's responsibility to keep our parks safe for registered users. Please ask the owner if the dog has a permit. The registration tag could have fallen off or maybe the owner forgot the right collar. Use this opportunity to be an ambassador for the dog parks. If the tag has broken, let the owner know where they can get a new one. If the dog isn't registered, let the owner know how easy it is to register their dog and how the registration fee helps us all.

What if I see someone is not picking-up after their dog?

The dog parks are self patrolled. Waste receptacles and "poop bags" are available and conveniently located within the off-leashed area. Usually owners will pick-up after their dogs. It is possible the owner was not paying attention as their dog relieved itself. You can politely point out to the owner that they may have missed their dog eliminating and what general area the offending substance is in. Unfortunately, some owners may still not pick up after their dog. In order to keep the park clean, safe, and sanitary there may be the need for you to pick up another dog's feces. Please know from all the dog park users how thankful we are for all efforts to keep our dog parks clean and safe.

What if I only live in Monroe County part of the year?

According to New York State Law any dog residing in NY for more than 30 days must be licensed in the city, town, or village they are residing. Please see www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AI/Doglic.html or call your local license office for more information.