

Is your District considering building a community dog park?

If so, take a look at the following risk management considerations covering location, safety, noise, sanitation, and maintenance. Where applicable, we also recommend consulting with your county and/or municipality for potential requirements.

The basic components of a dog park include:

- Six-foot fencing
- Double-gated latched entry
- Separate area for small and large dogs
- Potable water source
- Signs displaying the rules

When determining the dog park location, consider the following:

- Avoid building the park immediately adjacent to residential property lines.
- If feasible, place the double-gated entry close to the parking lot to discourage handlers from letting their dogs off the leash before entering the off-leash area.
- Remember to consider relevant ADA access requirements.



Examples of dog park rules and risk management considerations to assist with reducing the risk of injury, noise complaints, and sanitation problems, include:



SAFETY RULES

The safety of humans and dogs is a vital risk management concern. Sample safety rules may include:

- Use dog park at your own risk.
- Dogs must be legally licensed and vaccinated.
- Dogs must be leashed when entering and exiting the park.
- Aggressive dogs must be removed immediately.
- Owners must be in the dog park and supervising their dog with leash readily available.
- Handlers must be at least 16 years of age.
- Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times.
- Puppies under four months are not allowed.
- Dogs in heat are not allowed.
- No human and/or dog food is allowed in the dog park.
- Smoking is not allowed in the dog park.
- Petting other people's dogs without the owner's permission is not allowed.
- Users are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries and/or damages caused by their dogs.
- If dog park users do not abide by these rules, please contact local animal control at (INSERT PHONE NUMBER).
- Violation of the INSERT CODE results in fines and no further use of the dog park.
- In an emergency call 911.

DOG PARK RISK MANAGEMENT

NOISE

Consider implementing the following rules:

- Dog park hours (i.e.: dusk to dawn, specific hours).
- Dogs who are barking excessively and continuously should leave the park.
- No excessive and continuous shouting by dog handlers.

SANITATION

- Consider providing disposal bags or require handlers to bring their own bags.
- Require handlers to pick up their dog's waste and properly dispose it.
- Provide an adequate number of refuse cans.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance should include frequent collection and removal of debris, restocking waste disposal bags, sign repair, filling holes, fence repair, irrigation, and surface material maintenance.



SAMPLE DOG PARK SIGNS

