

## Dogs in Parks \_ 2019 Research Findings

### A. Research regarding other community's approach to dogs in parks

- a. Dogs are not allowed in Madison parks under general ordinance 8.19 and this is unusual compared to other cities.

Grant checked on nine surrounding municipalities and found that all have similar criteria for allowing dogs in parks:

- i. Dogs on a leash \_(most 6-foot leash some 8 foot)
  - ii. Dogs must be licensed \_(None that I could tell required dog park permits)
    - a. Note that Dane County requires both a dog license and a dog park permit to walk a dog on leash in its parks.
  - iii. Rabies vaccine
  - iv. Required to pick up waste and have bags or scoops when in the park. (Fines vary)
  - v. Most have parts of the park that Dogs are restricted. Including entire parks
  - vi. Most allow dogs on leashes in conservation areas.
- b. All dogs in Madison should be on a leash unless the dog is in a yard and most of the rules above apply city-wide.
  - c. Monona has a good example:

Dogs on Leash in 2016, the Monona City Council approved an ordinance change allowing dogs in parks on-leash, under owner control with some restrictions. Dogs are not allowed in playground areas, park shelters, beaches, or fenced athletic areas. All dogs must be licensed. Read the complete ordinance [here](#).

### B. Various Numbers Related to Dogs

- a. Dog Licenses
  - i. In 2018 the Treasurer's office sold the following:
    1. 12,953 regular licenses
    2. 117 replacement tags
    3. 118 service animal tags
  - ii. Total revenue collected from dog licenses in 2018 \$196,550.75 of which \$117,034.75 was paid to Dane County as Madison's share of animal services such as animal control and Dane County Humane Society.
- b. Dog Park Permits Sold by the City of Madison (All revenue goes to the Dog Park Fund)
  - i. 2017
    1. Annuals: 7,984
    2. Dailies: 892
    3. Revenues: \$209,428.05
  - ii. 2018
    1. Annuals: 8,791
    2. Dailies: 570

- 3. Revenue: \$251, 998.12
  - iii. 2019
    - 1. Annuals (since Nov 15<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>): 5,474
    - 2. Dailies (since Jan 1, 2019): 114
    - 3. Revenue: \$165,483.52
- c. Dane County Dog Parks
  - i. Dane County has 7 Dog Parks they manage
  - ii. In 2018 Dane County brought in \$140,000 in revenues to support maintenance of their dog park facilities
- d. Dog related citations (City of Madison)
  - i. Park rangers issued 51 citations for off-leash dogs in parks in 2018
  - ii. They issued 2 citations for dogs in unauthorized areas while on-leash
  - iii. These are municipal citations as authorized by Wisconsin State Statute 66.0113 and the revenue from the citations is paid to the Municipal Court. City of Madison sees no revenue from these citations.
- C. Current Conditions for Dogs in Parks
  - a. Eight off-leash dog parks run by the City of Madison
  - b. Twenty six parks where one may walk a licensed and leashed dog
  - c. Current ranger approach to
    - i. Dealing with leashed dogs in parks where they are not allowed
    - ii. Off-leash dogs in parks where they are not allowed
  - d. Education vs citation
  - e. Other comments by Josh