

**STATEMENT OF POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR ON-LEASH DOG
ACCESS TO THE MADISON PARK SYSTEM**

AUTHORIZATION

The Madison Board of Park Commissioners is the approving authority for policies governing the Madison Park system. This policy is intended to guide the Parks Division regarding access to Madison Parks for on-leash dogs.

This policy is intended to achieve the following:

- Provide access for Madison dog owners to the Madison Park system which balances the needs of other park users and management goals.
- Provide rules and restrictions to define responsible dog access to parks.
- Assure that the use of City parks by dog owners respects park use by non-dog owners.

GUIDELINES FOR ALLOWING ON-LEASH DOG ACCESS TO MADISON PARKS

1. In general, dogs are allowed in all Madison Parks except for the following park classifications/areas/uses:
 - Conservation parks
 - City of Madison Golf Courses
 - Olbrich Botanical Gardens
 - Playgrounds (inside the playground surfacing area)
 - Splash parks (on the concrete splash park surface and/or within fenced area)
 - Goodman Pool (except for special events)
 - Programmed sports fields such as soccer, ultimate fields or softball/baseball diamonds
 - Groomed cross country ski trails
 - In the water or on the beach at designated beach locations
 - Parks designated by the Board of Park Commissioners as dog free parks (defined as...)
 - Any location posted with “No Dogs Allowed” signage as designated by the Parks Superintendent or the Board of Park Commissioners.
2. In parks where dogs are allowed, the following rules apply:
 - Dogs must be on a leash.
 - Dogs must be licensed and must have an up-to-date rabies vaccination.
 - Dog walkers are required to pick up waste and have bags or scoops when in the park.
 - Dogs must not dig, chase or harm wildlife, damage Park property, or interfere with other Park users.