

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 other park users ~~rs by non-dog owners~~.

GUIDELINES FOR ALLOWING ON-LEASH DOG ACCESS TO MADISON PARKS

- ~~4. 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~~

2.1. In parks where dogs are allowed, the following rules apply:

- Dogs must be under the immediate physical control of a person at all times.
- Dogs must be on a leash that is no more than 6 feet long, non-retractable, and held by a person at all times.
- 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.

2. In general, dogs are allowed in all Madison Parks except for the following park classifications/areas/uses:

- Conservation parks
- Burial/effigy mounds
- City of Madison Golf Courses
- Olbrich Botanical Gardens
- Playgrounds and areas within 20 feet of a playground surface (inside the playground surfacing area)
- Splash parks, fenced areas(s) surrounding a splash park, and areas within 20 feet of the splash park surface (on the concrete splash park surface and/or within fenced area)
- Goodman Pool (except for special events where dogs are specifically invited)
- Programmed sports fields and facilities that are enclosed or substantially enclosed by a fence, whether in use or not
- Programmed, non-fenced 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 as dog-free parks by the Board of Park Commissioners. as dog free parks (defined as...)

3. No City resident will be more than 2 miles from a dog-free park.

4. City Park Rangers may issue bans under the Parks Behavioral Policy to dog owners who repeatedly violate this policy. The Parks Superintendent can issue a temporary ban to make a park dog-free for up to 90 days.

Any location posted with “No Dogs Allowed” signage as designated by the Parks Superintendent or the Board of Park Commissioners.

Policy Implementation:

- Staff will work with the City Attorney’s office to revise MGO 8.19 in accordance with the approved policy.
- Staff will define the list of dog-free parks to be approved by the Board of Park Commissioners. This information will be posted on the parks website.
- Park signage to communicate where dogs are not permitted will be shared with the Board of Park Commissioners.
- Information regarding the policy will be distributed to inform purchasers of dog licenses regarding the expectations of dog owners in parks.

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