

Clayton Dog Park **USER GUIDE**



www.claytonmo.gov/dogpark

**EmBARKing on a journey to the Clayton
Dog Park at Anderson Park**



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General Information

Address: 8275 Clayton Rd, 63105

Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. to Dusk or 9:00 p.m. (whichever comes first)

Membership, Maintenance or Repair Issues: Email dogpark@claytonmo.gov

Your Role

Clayton Dog Park (CDP) is a “Use at your own risk” facility. This means a self-directed dog park with no day-to-day on-site supervision. To have a dog park that is fun, well maintained, and safe - it is necessary for every member to adhere to the dog park rules and to help enforce the rules by monitoring the park and reporting issues that cannot be handled easily as they arise. This is a collective effort and success depends on you, the members. Members who fail to comply with CDP rules or fail to comply with directives from the City of Clayton Parks and Recreation Department staff regarding outcome from issue or incident reports may have their membership either temporarily or permanently revoked.

New to the Dog Park?

- Start with short visits and ease your dog into the park atmosphere. Plan visits during off-hours (weekends and weekdays after 4 p.m. are the most crowded). Lengthen your visits as your dog demonstrates that they are enjoying the experience.
- If your dog shows aggressive behavior, take them out of the park. They can endanger other dogs and dog owners. Please do not be afraid to encourage other park users to remove their dog if they exhibit inappropriate behavior.
- Always keep a leash handy.
- Allow your dog to meet and greet other dogs. They need to establish a relationship and feel comfortable with each other.
- Keep dogs away from the entry gate. They may intimidate newly arriving dogs or dash out of the gate.
- Always clean up after your dog. Waste bags and trash cans are provided at the park entrance.

“Happiness is a day at the dog park”

Tips for Success

Entering the Park

Got Leash? Use your leash while outside the dog park. This is a Clayton ordinance and is also a matter of common courtesy to your fellow dog park users. UNLEASH your dog inside the double-gated areas while other dogs are not immediately close to your dog. When a leashed dog is greeted by an off-leash dog (s), the leashed dog will not be able to display normal doggie greetings and may feel trapped or threatened. If he does feel this way, he may act defensively and a tense situation may arise. When all dogs are off leash, they can display normal dog greeting signals and they can get away from a pressure situation if they feel the need. This is very important.

Hello! Dogs already on site are eager to greet newcomers. If you have a “greeter” you should stay close by and not allow your dog to pile-on or overwhelm the arriving dog. Most dogs need a chance to move through the gangway and adjust to playground energy. If you are just arriving, your dog must be off leash when entering the gangway. For successful greetings – all dogs must have the same freedom to move around as needed. Leashed dogs will feel trapped while the other dogs have free movement.

While in the Park

Dog Leash: Always keep the leash with you, in case you need to take control of your dog. This is both a CDP rule and a City Ordinance.

Keep Moving: Most of our Four-Legged friends like to play close to their humans. When humans congregate for long periods in one spot – so do the Four-Leggeds friends. We want to encourage our pups to run and move. Doggie brawls often happen when multiple dogs hang out in the same space; 3-4 dogs piled on top of one another rarely works out well. Help keep things interesting for your pooch – give them new focus.

Unplug: Membership rules require members always keep an eye on their dog (s) and be within a reasonable proximity in case of need to redirect attention - good time to put your cell phone and other electronic devices away. Treat yourself to a break from the daily stresses. Bond with your dog; enjoy the park.

Excessive Barking: Some dogs are very vocal and use barking as an invitation to play. Others use barking as a warning to back off. Either way it can be frustrating, but members must understand both. And sometimes dogs don't pick up on the cues either and the humans may need to step in. Please re-direct your 4-Legged's attention if they fixate on a dog (s) and ruin their play with their barking – but first give the dogs a chance to work it out on their own.

“A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself” -Josh Billings

Potenital Risks

Clayton Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide a fun, safe environment for you and your dog, however, by using this facility you agree that you understand and assume all responsibility and liability for the risks associated with use of this facility.

Potential risks include but are not limited to:

- Infectious diseases such as rabies, kennel cough, or Lyme disease.
- Dog theft or unlawful capture by other people.
- Dog escapes over or under fences.
- Park vegetation that may have burrs or seeds that could get tangled in a dog's coat or lodged in a dog's feet, ears, or eyes.
- Mosquitoes, ticks, chiggers, fleas or other insects that may be present.
- Dog fights, dog bites and injuries to humans and other dogs.
- Wild animals in the parks such as skunks, raccoons, or stray dogs, all of which might injure or infect your dog.

While it may be tempting to stand back and be a passive observer, all members will have a much more rewarding experience if basic rules are actively observed. Use of the dog park is not a right; it is a privilege. Please do not allow unacceptable or irresponsible behavior to ruin the fun for other members.



Dog Behavior *What's Your Dog's Vocabulary?*

Know Your Dog

Before you use the dog park, know your dog! Be realistic rather than idealistic when it comes to your dog's temperament.

Be aware that dogs have different play styles, temperaments and physical abilities. Many dogs love rambunctious play, but some dogs suffer from injuries, and some are timid and more aloof. Some dogs have rough play styles and can be overpowering though non-aggressive. Mounting can initiate a potentially harmful situation. If your dog is visibly stressing another dog, please remove your dog to another part of the park. Remember, a little common sense and courtesy goes a long way when the success of the dog park relies on the people who use it. Always respect the wishes of the handler and be prepared to move to another area of the park if your dog is too rambunctious. Leash up and leave if your dog is acting aggressively. Aggressive dogs are not allowed and are not appreciated by others. No matter how cute you think he is and no matter how much you want your dog to be able to use the park, if he's acting aggressively, he needs to be removed.

Time to Go Home?

If your dog is not having fun, it is time to go home. Usually, 30-60 minutes of interaction is enough time to meet an average dog's social, mental and physical needs. If your dog is exhibiting any of these signs of tension and anxiety for longer than 10 minutes, please take your dog home immediately; they are not having fun. Staying longer will not make them more comfortable.

- Pressing into your body
- Yawning
- Ears Back and Tight Against Head
- Tail Tightly Tucked / Low Tail
- Excessive Salivations
- Panting
- Shallow/Fast Respirations
- Slow/Little Movement
- Whining/crying
- Pacing
- Stiff Posture
- Hiding
- Stretching
- Crouching on the ground
- Freezing in place
- Inappropriate Urination
- Trembling

**“Everyone
thinks they have
the best dog.
None of them
are wrong.”
-Unknown**

Dog Fights *Prevention*

Learn the 4 “P” Warning Signs

- **Posture:** A dog’s body language can communicate fear, hostility, or submission. Learn to read and respond to your dog’s body language, and others.
- **Packing:** More than two or three dogs packed together can lead to trouble. Break it up before it starts by leading your dog to a neutral area at least 30 feet away.
- **Possession:** Whether it’s you, a ball, or a treat, most dogs will protect what is theirs. Remain aware.
- **Provoking:** If your dog is continuously annoying another dog or provoking attention, it’s time to leave the park.

What You Can Do to Prevent a Dog Fight

- Pay attention to your dog and be aware of where he is and what he is always doing.
- Stay close enough to control or protect your dog in the face of a potential fight.
- Always keep a collar on your dog so that you have something to grab, if needed.
- It is recommended that you not bring dog toys or balls to the dog park. Toys may provoke possessive or aggressive conduct.
- Leave the Park. Some days it’s just a bad mix. Go for a walk or come back later. You and your dog will be better off.

**“Dogs do speak, but only to those
who know how to listen.”**

-Orhan Pamuk

Dog Fight! What Do You Do?

REMOVE ALL SPECTATORS

If your dog is not involved, calmly call him to you and get out of the area as quickly as possible. Wading in to help can signal your dog to join the fray!

REMAIN QUIET

Stay calm and QUIET. Shouting rarely helps and can be misinterpreted as 'excited barking'.

INTERRUPT THE FIGHT WITH NOISE/SPRAYS

Attempt to interrupt the fight by blowing on a loud whistle or an air horn. A blast of water from a hose is effective and preferred. CDP does not condone pepper spray or other harsh chemicals. When the dogs break apart, the owners should immediately leash the dogs. Loop the leashes around the dog's necks and fasten the clasp some distance away.

INTERRUPT THE FIGHT PHYSICALLY

As a last resort, the owners of the involved dogs should grab their dogs. First, be sure all other dogs are removed from the immediate area. Next and at the same time, each owner should grab their dog by the hind legs or tail and lift their back ends off the ground. This technique will increase the chances of breaking the dogs apart and lessen the possibility of being bitten. Stay silent or speak only using a calm reassuring voice as you touch your dog. Once you succeed in separating the dogs, face them away from each other and securely attach their leashes. Move the dogs some distance away, sit quietly and assess any injuries.

AFTER THE FIGHT

Adrenaline will be flowing; emotions will be high and over stimulation can result in another altercation. After everyone has calmed down, the owners of the fighting dogs should quietly and unemotionally exchange contact information, as well as vaccination information. ALL owners who have been visiting the dog park during the fight and whose dogs were either involved directly, indirectly, or otherwise engaged emotionally, should take their dogs home for the day. Owners are legally responsible for any injuries inflicted by their dog. Clayton Parks and Recreation Department is not responsible for negotiating settlements.

FILE AN INCIDENT REPORT, maybe

Report incidents with injuries. It is not necessary to file for fights that do not cause injury. Incident reports are filed on-line at www.claytonmo.gov/DogPark under "File Incident Report".

What To Do If a Dog Bite Occurs

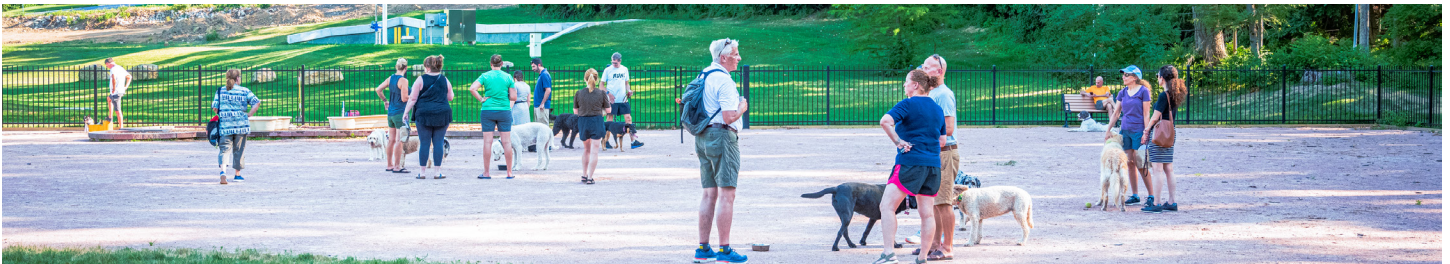
If a dog bites or injures a human, this must be reported to the Clayton Police and Clayton Fire Department immediately by calling (314) 645-3000. If a dog bites or injures another dog, the decision to contact the Clayton Police is at the discretion of the dog owners.

- Immediately secure the biting dog and the victim dog. Leash them and keep separated.
- Any wounds should be washed immediately with clean water.
- Owners of dogs involved should exchange names, addresses, and telephone numbers.
- Owners should then take their dog home or to a veterinarian for necessary medical care. If a bite occurs to a person, consult a physician.

Dog Fights *What Justifies An Incident Report?*

Incident Reports

- Valid incident reports include:
 - Serious dog fights, with injury to dog or human
 - Serious human fights, with or without injury
 - Other dog injuries
 - Other human injuries
 - Repeated violations of CDP rules
- Collect as much info as possible, dog and human names (or description) and witness (s) when available – important to process the report.
- If injury, include photo.
- File a report immediately so that happenings are still fresh in everyone’s mind – but first stay calm and think it through so that you are as clear as possible with the facts.
- Conditions of membership include the understanding that members use the CDP at their own risk and that the park is self-directed with no day-to-day management. Both dogs and humans can have a bad day and Clayton Parks & Recreation Department does not need to know every time there is a scuffle or disagreement in the park.
- Consider if situation was inevitable dog ruckus (not all dogs play well together – different play styles and energy level, etc) – no report required — **Or** — serious aggression or violations – report is appropriate.
- Anonymous reports will be discarded.



Submission Process

Clayton Parks & Recreation Department management will objectively evaluate case facts without emotion or prejudice. Clayton Parks & Recreation Department requires everything in writing in effort to protect against potential detail oversight or changing versions of what happened. Once all the information is collected the Clayton Parks & Recreation Department will decide on the best path forward. Bringing the issue to offending dog’s human and asking for better management of their dog while on CDP grounds is most frequent outcome. Clayton Parks & Recreation Department has the authority to alter membership status (temporarily suspend or permanently revoke membership), recommend or require outside training or behavioral evaluation, or other actions, as needed. It is a unique and exceptional situation in which a dog is permanently banned from CDP, but it can happen.

What Clayton Parks & Recreation Department Can Do

- Provides structure to process incidents and maintain records.
- Will assist (limited basis) with identifying offending dog (s) by checking log-in records for gate entry system if there is any confusion.
- Will also request positive identification via membership photo before contacting the offending party for additional info.
- Once all involved have submitted requested information, Clayton Parks & Recreation Department will review and recommend appropriate actions and monitor progress until the case is closed.

What Clayton Parks & Recreation Department Cannot Do

Clayton Parks & Recreation Department is not the dog park supervisor –CDP is a “Use at your own risk” facility. Clayton Parks & Recreation Department is not responsible for negotiating financial or legal disputes between members – we do monitor how members handle injuries caused by their dog since taking responsibility for dog’s actions is part of CDP membership agreement. Sometimes Clayton Parks & Recreation Department cannot resolve issues because both sides give conflicting accounts and no witnesses are available to resolve discrepancies. It is incumbent upon the person filing the report to provide a reasonable amount of information; If Clayton Parks & Recreation Department cannot quickly identify all parties via checking our access control system (fob entry), the case cannot proceed. Example: “It was a black dog” – at time of incident either no black dog on site or a dozen black dogs on site.



USER GUIDE APPENDIX




Incident Report Sample
Clayton Dog Park Rules
Dog Park Liability Release
Dog Park Membership Application
General Information

Incident Report Sample

Below is a small sample of the online Clayton Dog Park Incident Report. This form is located on the City's website at www.claytonmo.gov/DogPark. A paper copy of the form may be requested by calling the Center of Clayton Welcome Desk at (314) 290-8500.

Be sure to fill out this form to the best of your ability and immediately following the incident. Photos of injury to an individual and/or dog can be attached to the form on Question #9.

Dog Park Incident Report Sample

 Save Progress

Please fill out the below incident report to the best of your ability. Attached photos of injury, if applicable.

1. Contact Information *

First Name
Phone Number ext.

Last Name
Email

2. Incident Information *

Date Incident Occured 

Time Incident Occured

3. Type of Incident (Please selection one option below) *

- Serious dog fight - no injuries, no vet bill
- Serious dog fight - injuries to human

- Serious dog fight - injuries, vet bill
- Other (please explain in space provided)

4. Incident Description *

Please provide a timeline of the incident including facts and descriptions of all involved.

5. Humans/Dogs Involved

Owner's First Name
Phone Number ext.
Dog's Name
Dog's Color

Owner's Last Name
Email
Dog's Breed

6. Other Humans/Dogs Involved

Owner's First Name
Phone Number ext.
Dog's Name
Dog's Color

Owner's Last Name
Email
Dog's Breed

Clayton Dog Park Rules

The following regulations apply at the Clayton Dog Park:

1. Under Missouri Law, Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries or damages caused by their dogs. The word "Owner" applies to the adult person accompanying the dog(s).
2. All dogs must be spayed or neutered.
3. Dog feces (and/or dog waste) must be cleaned up and properly disposed of by owners immediately.
4. All dogs must be on a leash until inside the fenced area.
5. Dog owners must carry a leash at all times, closely supervise their dogs and at no time may the owner leave the fenced area without their dog.
6. Gates must be closed except when entering or exiting the off-leash area. Each member is given a unique key fob used to unlock the main entrance gate. Key fobs or any other form of access should not be given to non-members. Fee for replacement key fob is \$20.00.
7. Dogs must wear a current rabies vaccination tag.
8. Dogs must be under visual and voice control at all times. Excessive barking or uncontrollable dogs must be removed immediately.
9. Owners must stop dogs from digging and must fill any holes caused by their dogs.
10. Pinch, spike and choke collars must be removed prior to entering the fenced off-leash area.
11. No children under twelve (12) years of age allowed; older children must be under adult supervision and must not be permitted to run, shout, scream, or otherwise excite or antagonize dogs in the off-leash area. Dog handlers/owners must be 16 years of age.
12. Hours of operation are 7:00 a.m. to dusk or 9:00 p.m. (whichever comes first).
13. No climbing on or over the fence.
14. No smoking or tobacco use in the park.
15. Limit of three (3) dogs per person in the off-leash area.
16. No one may conduct any kind of commercial or professional business in the dog park without approval from the Parks and Recreation Director or their designee.
17. Owners must otherwise comply with all rules governing the park and relevant parking regulations.
18. Use of the off-leash area by any dog constitutes implied consent of the dog's owner to all of the conditions stated in this section and constitutes a waiver of liability to the City of Clayton and an agreement and undertaking to protect, indemnify, defend and hold the City of Clayton harmless from any claims, suits or other actions caused by the conduct of a dog owner or their dog.
19. All City of Clayton Ordinances apply within the Dog Park.

A dog owner who fails to comply with the above rules may be asked to leave the dog park and may have their membership revoked.



Clayton Dog Park Rules, *continued.*

The following are not allowed in the fenced area of the dog park:

1. Dogs in heat, as they are required to be spayed or neutered.
2. Aggressive dogs or dangerous dogs as defined by the City of Clayton ordinances 210.340 and 210.350. Specifically (but not limited to), any dog that has bitten another animal or person and/or any dog which has been declared dangerous in any other jurisdiction.
3. Ill or injured dogs, including those dogs known to carry any disease or parasite transmittable to other dogs or humans.
4. Puppies under six months of age.
5. Animals other than dogs.
6. Alcoholic beverages, food, dog treats, rawhide or glass containers.
7. Bicycles, skateboards, roller skates or blades, or any motorized vehicles, except wheelchairs.

