



Proposed new Dogs in Parks Ordinance

Skokie Residents,

Please see the list below of proposed rules for allowing dogs in parks on leashes. A few additional notes:

- A copy of the Park District's current ordinance, which addresses service animals, may be found below. The service animal portion will not change.
- The Park District's current ordinance says dogs must be on leashes 6 feet of length or shorter. To be consistent with the Village of Skokie's ordinance regarding leashed dogs, the leash length has been increased to 8 feet.
- Staff have not yet met with the Skokie Health Department or the Skokie Police Department to receive their feedback. We would like to have all community input collected before we meet with either department.
- When all feedback has been received, the Skokie Park District attorney will draft a preliminary ordinance. This preliminary draft will then be made available for further review.

We anticipate that the proposed new ordinance will go before the park board at the April 23, 2019 park board meeting (7 p.m.). The board may approve the ordinance as proposed, they may ask for or make changes, or they may vote not to change the current ordinance.

For questions of feedback, please email Superintendent of Recreation & Facilities Michelle Tuft at mtuft@skokieparks.org.

Thank you.



Dogs on Leashes in Skokie Parks – Proposed Rules (First Draft, March 27, 2019)

- Dogs must be on leashes under the control of their owner at all times
 - Leashes must be 8 feet long or less (matches Village code)
 - Retractable leashes are prohibited
 - Electronic leashes are prohibited
- Owners must be physically and mentally capable of controlling and managing their dogs.
- Owners must have in their immediate possession, a means for removal and transportation of excrement.
 - Owner must pick up and dispose of any waste produced by their dog.
 - Owners are encouraged to pick up waste that isn't their pets to help keep the parks clean.
- Dog must be licensed and vaccinated according to all Village of Skokie and State of Illinois laws
 - Dogs must display the required licenses and tags (Article II, Section 18-31 Village of Skokie Ordinance)
- Any dog that displays aggressive behavior toward, or causes injury to another dog, wildlife or any person shall be removed from the park.
- Skokie Park District staff are authorized to have any dog that is aggressive, menacing, loud, or otherwise disturbing any person, program or event removed. (also refer to Village ordinance regarding dangerous or menacing animals)
- Fines are in accordance to the Skokie Park District ordinance already in place which states:
 - “In addition to any other penalty imposed on a Person in accordance with this Ordinance, any Person violating or disobeying any section or part of the Ordinance, or any other District ordinance, policy, rule, or regulation, may, upon conviction be fined not more than \$1,000 for each offense.”
 - Staff is considering defining a sliding scale which is less subjective.
 - Village of Skokie has specific fines for dangerous or menacing animals (Sec. 18-61 and 18-62)

Areas where dogs are not allowed

- All Park District Facilities
 - except during Skokie Park District approved dog related classes
- Swimming Pools
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment areas
- Spray Grounds

- Sand Volleyball Courts
- Golf Course
- Garden Plots
- Tot Learning Center grounds
- Emily Oaks Nature Center grounds
- Sports Park grounds
 - Dogs are allowed on at Sports Park East and in the parking lot to allow access to Sports Park East
- Within 25 feet of :
 - Playgrounds
 - Tot lots
 - Picnic shelters
 - except when patrons want to bring their dogs to their **permitted** picnic
 - Courts
 - Tennis courts
 - Basketball courts
 - Pickle Ball Courts
 - Futsal Courts
 - Petanque courts
 - Any other court
 - Sports fields (during play)
 - Exception, dogs are allowed on the sidelines. Dog owners should be aware of the potential injury to their dog from balls and participants.
 - Skokie Park District camp sites, when campers are present
- Parks where dogs are not allowed (parks under a half acre in size):
 - Carol Park
 - Chippewa Park
 - Menominee Park
 - Pawnee park
 - Playtime Park
 - Kawaga Gardens
- Parks where dogs are not allowed during school hours when children are present
 - Laramie park
 - McNally Park
 - Schack Park
 - Sequoya Park
 - Timber Ridge Park



Conduct Ordinance: Section 2.03. Animals and Pets.

(a) No Person shall bring or release onto District Property any Wildlife including without limitation any animal the capture or killing of which is authorized by the fish and game laws of the State of Illinois, or any other animal, except for domesticated dogs, cats or other domesticated animal subject to the restrictions contained in this section. Provided, however, that the District may bring or release, or permit another Person to bring or release such proscribed animals onto District Property in conjunction with an activity or event conducted or sponsored by the District or in conjunction with a zoo, museum, nature center, or similar Facility controlled, permitted or licensed maintained by the District.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this Section 2.03, no Person shall bring any domesticated dog, cat, or any other domesticated animal onto District Property. Persons who have acquired a membership to the District's Pooch Park may allow a domesticated dog off-leash at Pooch Park in accordance with said membership rules and regulations and otherwise in accordance with this Ordinance.

(c) Domesticated dogs, cats and any other domesticated animals are otherwise permitted only on four (4) pathways as designated by the District and in compliance with this Section 2.03. No owner or agent of the owner having control of any domesticated dog, cat, or any other domesticated animal shall cause or permit such animal to be on said pathways unless such animal is on a leash which shall not exceed six (6) feet in length and such Person has in his immediate Possession a device for removal, and a depository for the transportation of, animal excrement from such Property.

(c) All owners or agents of the owner having control of any domesticated dog, cat, or other domesticated animal, shall remove any excrement from District Property left by such animal.

(d) No Person shall bring a domesticated dog, cat, or any other animal onto or permit any animal to remain on any portion of District Property where the presence of animals is prohibited, except (i) in conjunction with an activity or event conducted or sponsored by the District; and (ii) dogs or other domesticated animals specially trained to assist the visually impaired or other Persons with disabilities, when they are accompanying the Persons with disabilities for purposes of providing such assistance.

(e) Any animal found on District Property in violation of subsections (a) or (d) may be apprehended, removed to an animal shelter, public pound, or other place provided for that purpose, and disposed of pursuant to the laws or ordinances of Cook County. The owner or Person responsible for such animal shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred or encumbered in the removal and housing of such animal and such charge shall be in addition to and not in lieu of any other penalties provided for in this Ordinance and any other applicable federal, state, local or District laws, ordinances, rules or regulations.

(f) Service animals for the visually impaired and other domesticated animals specially trained to assist Persons with disabilities are excluded from the prohibitions of this section when they are accompanying Persons with disabilities for purposes of providing such assistance.