

Pooch Park

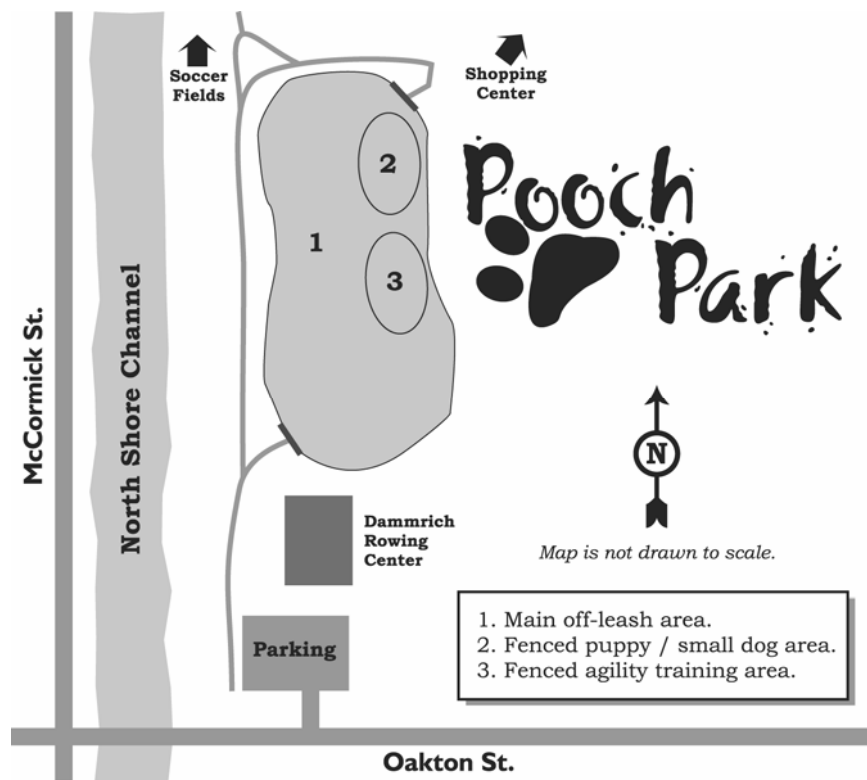


April 2007



Welcome to Pooch Park!

In exploring the feasibility of expanding recreational opportunities for Skokie and Evanston dog enthusiasts, the Skokie Park District and the City of Evanston began working with a local organization called P.O.O.C.H ("People Organizing Off-leash Canine Habitats") a registered not-for-profit organization that values exercise and socialization for local dogs. After meeting with this group, as well as interested residents during a public hearing, the Skokie Park District's Board of Commissioners and the City of Evanston decided to proceed with the planning and construction of a dog recreational facility at Channelside Park in Skokie. The result is Pooch Park, a 2.7-acre off-leash dog facility, located between Main and Oakton Streets, on the east bank of the North Shore Channel.



Fees and Requirements

Dog owners will be required to pay the following fees and adhere to the following requirements:



Users will be required to obtain, complete and meet the requirements of a permit and pay a \$35 fee for the first dog, \$10 each additional dog per year (\$70 for the first dog, and \$15 for the second dog, non-Skokie or non-Evanston residents). (Per local ordinances, maximum of two dogs per household for Skokie residents and three dogs per household for Evanston residents.)



Dog owners must provide a current copy of vaccination certificates upon registering or renewing a membership.



All registrations must be done in person at the approved sites located on the back page of the booklet.



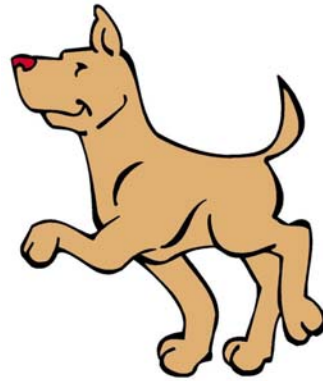
Dogs must wear a current dog license and/or rabies vaccination tag.



Dog owners will be required to sign a waiver and indemnification agreement and carry a membership card while at the park.



Posted dog park rules must be observed and followed by users. Pooch Park rules will be communicated in writing, during the registration process and in brochures. Signs at the park entrances and throughout the dog park will also highlight rules and regulations.



Park Rules and Regulations:

1. Pooch Park hours are 5 A.M. to 10 P.M., daily.
2. Dog owners will be solely responsible for the actions of their dog(s). Owners must have voice control of their dogs and be present in the park with their dogs.
3. All dogs must be at least 4-months-old to use the park.
4. Dogs must be spayed or neutered by the age of 12 months. Non-neutered or unsprayed dogs over the age of 12 months will not be allowed to use the park.
5. Owners must have visual contact of their dog and keep their dog's leash with them at all times. If aggressive behavior is observed in a dog, it must be leashed immediately and removed from the park.
6. For safety reasons, children must be supervised by an adult of at least 18-years-old. Children must remain with the adult at all times.
7. Children will be expected to behave in an appropriate manner. This includes no running, no chasing dogs and no petting other dogs unless permission is granted by that dog's owner.
8. Children will not be allowed in any of the "agility" areas nor will they be allowed on any of the play equipment.
9. Dog owners will be required to pick up dog feces and dispose of in waste receptacles, which are available throughout the park.
10. Dogs must wear a current Local Health Department license tag. Proof of an examination within the past year of any communicable diseases including an examination of a stool specimen for internal parasites, and be up-to-date on rabies, DHLPP and Bordetella shots. Dogs that are ill will not be allowed in the park. Proof of examination and shots is required before memberships can be sold.



11. Dogs will not be allowed to dig holes. Owner must repair any damaged turf.
12. No more than two dogs per person will be allowed on any one visit.
13. Dogs must be on a leash in park parking lots and walkways.
14. Dogs known to be aggressive toward other dogs or people may not enter the area.
15. Owners/handlers will closely supervise their dog(s), at no time leaving the area without his/her dog(s).
16. No alcohol will be allowed in the park.
17. No human food, dog chews or rawhide will be allowed in the park. Dog treats for training purposes only will be allowed, but may not be offered to other dogs in the park without approval from the dog's owner.
18. All pinch, choke, and spike collars must be removed from dogs prior to entering the dog park.
19. No electronic training devices will be allowed in the park.
20. No more than 8 dogs will be allowed in "agility" areas at one time. Dogs over 35 pounds will not be allowed in the puppy/small dog area.
21. Owners will be responsible for closing gates and will not offer entry to persons without a Pooch membership.
22. No roller blades, bikes, strollers or skateboards will be allowed in Pooch Park.
23. All complaints and/or grievances may be filed using complaint forms and are located on the park bulletin board or online at www.SkokieParkDistrict.org. If complaints are registered regarding aggressive behavior of a dog or non-adherence to rules, the owner's dog tags and access passes may be revoked. All incidents will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.



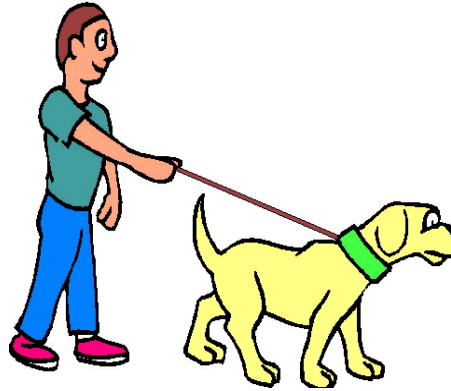
Dog Owner Risk and Responsibility

All dog owners should be aware of the following risks and responsibilities before entering Pooch Park:



A dog's behavior or actions, no matter how well trained -- if startled or frightened -- can be unpredictable and potentially life threatening. Even a well-behaved dog may attack a patron, another dog, park wildlife or a curious child without provocation or notice.

Other risks include a dog's natural reactions such as jumping, pulling, resisting and biting, and the negligence or irresponsibility of a dog's handler.



Although fenced dog parks raise the potential for risk of injury to persons or animals from attack, studies indicate that the majority of dog injuries occur within their home territory. At an off-leash dog park, most dogs are happy to run, explore, sniff, etc., and are less likely to attack another animal or patron than at home.



Dog owners are solely responsible for supervising their dog(s) and determining whether or not activities are appropriate for participation. Owners must understand that they are participating in dog park activities at their own risk (and the risk of their dog).



Dogs and permit holders of varying degrees of skill and experience use this facility.



It is highly recommended that children not attend Pooch Park. As stated before, a dog's behavior, no matter how well trained can be unpredictable. Some dogs may behave differently around small children and cannot be held accountable for the actions that children may cause such as running, loud play and other circumstances that may trigger a dog to become aggressive. Dog owners are not responsible for the actions of an accidental incident involving another person in the park.



Pooch Park is closed for maintenance every Tuesday and Wednesday from 1 – 3:30 P.M.

Obtaining a Pooch Park permit:

To register dog(s), please bring the required fee, proof of residency and current rabies vaccination tags to any one of the following convenient (people only) locations:

Robert Crown Center, 1701 Main St., Evanston
Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie
Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie
Weber Leisure Center, 9300 Weber Park Pl., Skokie

For more information about Pooch Park call the Skokie Park District at 847.674.1500 or go to www.SkokieParkDistrict.org.

Registration Checklist

- Do I have all the current vaccinations per Cook County Dog Park regulations?
- Do I have my current local tags?
- My dog(s) is spayed or neutered if over 12 months of age.
- Bring copies of required vaccinations, membership form, and payment at time of registration.

