



2023 Evanston Dog Beach Information Packet and Application



Evanston™
Parks & Recreation

The City of Evanston Dog Beach

Evanston's dog beach, located just south of Clark St. Beach (1811 Sheridan Rd.), is a popular off leash destination for many canine friends and their owners. The Dog Beach provides an opportunity for dogs to swim, run and mingle on the shore of beautiful Lake Michigan.

Dog Beach Hours and Pass Fees

The Dog Beach is open annually from March 1 through the first winter weather event that would prevent users from accessing the beach in a safe manner. Passes are \$75.00 for residents (60201 and 60202 only) and \$200.00 for non-residents, per dog. If you lose your dog beach pass card there is a \$10 fee for a replacement pass.

Before Purchasing a Dog Beach Pass

Due to various agencies' requirements, there are many regulations and rules surrounding the use of the facilities like the Dog Beach. Please be aware of all of the following guidelines, rules, and restrictions before deciding to purchase a pass for your dog.

Vaccinations, Test & Licenses required by Cook County:

Cook County Animal & Rabies Control Ordinance requires that all dogs using a dog beach/park/off leash area:

1. Have current vaccinations or titers (antibodies) for:

Rabies, Distemper(CFV), Hepatitis (Canine Adenovirus-2), Para-influenza (CPIV), Parvovirus (CPV), Leptospirosis, and Bordetella (kennel cough)
2. Proof of negative fecal test by a veterinarian's office for internal parasites, within the last year
3. Be licensed by the local government where the dog's owner lives
4. In addition, the dog owner or person who takes the dog to the beach/park must have a Pass/ID Card, etc., issued by the facility operator. This pass must be visible for inspection.

The City of Evanston, as the operator of a dog park/beach, must enforce the requirements of the Cook County Department of Animal & Rabies Control. The Cook County ordinance requires that the City of Evanston verify vaccination information before a dog beach pass can be issued. Dog owners must provide the above information in order to purchase a dog beach pass. The City of Evanston may not waive any Cook County requirements. If your dog, for medical reasons, cannot have one or more of the above-mentioned tests or vaccinations, you may apply for an exemption from Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control. Therefore, all dog owners wishing to purchase an Evanston Dog Beach pass must:

1. Provide proof of vaccinations and tests
 - **Residents and Non-residents:** have your veterinarian fill out and sign the verification form on the back of the application. **YOU MUST USE THIS FORM — NO OTHER PROOF WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
2. Provide proof of pet license
 - **Evanston residents:** (60201 & 60202) have a current Evanston pet license and **provide proof of that license.** A receipt of a pet license purchase is not adequate proof.
 - **Non-residents:** show proof that the dog is licensed by the local government where the owner lives by attaching **a copy of their pet license or pet license application receipt.** Should the local government where you live NOT require a pet license, you must provide proof by attaching a letter from said local government stating they do not require a pet license.
3. Sign the provided liability waiver
 - Residents and non-residents: sign the liability waiver form on the Dog Beach Pass application.

Evanston Pet License Information

The City of Evanston ordinance requires pets to be licensed every year. As a resident, you must have this license or purchase this license in order to purchase a dog beach pass. ***If you do not have a current pet license and would like to receive your license immediately, please purchase in-person. The lead time to receiving pet licenses online is 2 weeks.***

- Pet licenses are sold separately through the City of Evanston Collector's Office, 2100 Ridge Ave.
- For all questions on City of Evanston pet licenses, call 3-1-1 or 847-448-4311 outside Evanston.
- Information and application forms can also be found at: www.cityofevanston.org/pet

Purchasing your Pass:

To use the Dog Beach, owners must purchase a season pass for their dog. Season passes are \$75 for residents (60201 & 60202 only) and \$200 for non-residents, per dog. To be eligible for a pass you must provide proof that your dog has the proper vaccinations and that your dog is licensed in your community, as noted above.

Season passes may be purchased by walk-in only at:

- Community Centers: You can purchase your pass in-person on weekdays from 9am-5pm at Levy Senior Center, Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center, Ecology Center and Chandler-Newberger Community Center or from 8:30am-9pm, daily at Robert Crown Community Center. Remember: get your pet license first before you apply for your Dog Beach pass

- Dempster Street Beach Office: You can also purchase your pass by going to the Dempster St. Beach Office, located where Dempster St. meets the Lake (1251 Lake Shore Blvd.) Hours are Memorial Day through Labor Day from 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Remember: get your pet license first before you apply for your Dog Beach pass

Accessing the Beach

During the Summer Season, staff may be stationed at the Dog Beach entrance to check your pass(es), record pass number(s), and monitor the beach. At other times during the season when staff is not present at the gate, a coded gate lock will limit access to the beach to dog beach pass holders only. The code to the gate will be printed on the back of your dog beach pass. You will have to enter the code to unlock the gate when entering and exiting the beach.

City of Evanston Dog Beach Rules and Regulations

Dog Beach rules must be observed and followed by all users. Rules are communicated in writing below. The sign at the park entrance will also highlight rules and regulations.

1. An area south of the Clark Street breakwater and north of the Church Street boat ramp, and the adjacent sandy area are hereby designated as a dog beach. Dogs may enter the water only within the designated area.
2. The Dog Beach will open on March 1, weather permitting and will remain open until inclement weather prohibits staff to safely maintain access. Once closed, the dog beach shall remain closed through March 1 or when weather permits reopening.
3. The Dog Beach hours are 6 A.M. to 11 P.M., weather permitting. The beach is subject to closure due to high bacteria counts, lightning, or other dangerous weather/lake conditions and lakefront special events. The City Manager or their designee may open or close the Dog Beach pursuant to subsection 7-11-4(C) of the City Code.
4. Annual passes are valid March 1 through the end of the season closure date.
5. All dogs must have a season pass to be on the beach.
6. Dog Beach passes are non-transferable. Valid pass holders are prohibited from lending, sharing, or supplying passes and/or gate codes with unauthorized persons. Anyone caught allowing a non-permitted holder/dog access to the Dog Beach will have their pass revoked.
7. Owners/handlers must display their dog's season pass at all times while using the dog beach and show their pass to the attendant when entering and exiting the beach. Staff reserves the right to inspect dog passes at any time.
8. Owners/handlers will be responsible for closing all gates as they enter and exit the Dog Beach.
9. Dogs may be released from their leashes only when they enter the fenced area designated as the dog beach.

10. Dog owners/handlers will be required to pick up dog feces and dispose of it in the waste receptacles located near the beach.
11. Owners/handlers/guests with dogs may enter the water to their knees and no further.
12. Owners must fill any holes dug by their dog immediately.
13. No more than two (2) dogs per person will be allowed on any one visit.
14. Dogs, owners, and handlers shall not climb, stand, sit on rocks or the breakwall.
15. Dog owners/handlers must be at least 14 years old.
16. Owners/handlers must be in voice control of their dog(s), have visual contact with their dog(s), keep their dog's leash with them, and be present on the beach with their dog(s) at all times.
17. Owners/handlers are liable for any damage or injury which occurs as a result of their dog(s) to another dog(s), person or beach property. This means owners are legally and financially responsible for their dog's behavior. The City of Evanston has NO liability or responsibility for injuries that may occur on the Dog Beach.
18. Dogs who exhibit aggressive behavior may lose access privileges to the dog beach.
19. Cook County Animal & Rabies Control Ordinance requires that all dogs using the dog beach in off leash areas have current vaccinations or titers (antibodies) for Rabies, Distemper (CFV), Hepatitis (Canine Adenovirus-2), Para-influenza (CPIV), Parvovirus (CPV), Leptospirosis, Bordetella (kennel cough), and a negative fecal test by a veterinarian's office for internal parasites, within the last year. Written proof is required prior to a dog beach pass being issued by the City of Evanston. Dogs that are ill are not allowed on the Dog Beach.
20. Female dogs in heat are not allowed on the Dog Beach. All dogs 12 months and older must be spayed or neutered.
21. Puppies under 4 months of age are not allowed on the dog beach.
22. All pinch, choke, spike, and electronic collars must be removed from dogs prior to entering the dog park. No leashes over six feet (6') in length allowed.
23. By city ordinance, alcohol is not allowed in any City park; this includes the Dog Beach.
24. Human food, glass containers, and rawhide chews are prohibited on the Dog Beach.
25. Sunbathing is prohibited on Dog Beach. No chairs, beach towels, or blankets are allowed in the dog beach
26. Persons who are 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.
27. Dogs found on the Dog Beach without a valid Dog Beach Pass must leave immediately.

Dog Owner Risk and Responsibility

All dog owners and guests should be aware of the following risks and responsibilities before entering the Dog Beach:

- 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-trained 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 owner/handler.
- Dog owners/handlers are SOLELY responsible for supervising their dog(s) and determining whether or not activities associated with the dog beach are appropriate for his/her dog's participation. Dog owners must understand they participate in Dog Beach activities at their own risk and the risk of their dog(s).
- Dogs and dog owners/handlers of varying degrees of skill and experience use the Evanston Dog Beach.
- Dog owners are solely responsible for determining whether they or their dog(s) are physically fit and/or adequately skilled to use the Dog Beach.
- It is always advisable, especially if you or your dog is pregnant, disabled in any way, or recently suffered from an illness, injury or impairment, to consult a physician or veterinarian before using the Dog Beach.
- Other risks include hazards associated with the environment (water quality, waves, etc.), traffic conditions, acts of God, inclement weather, falling, premises defects, failure in supervision and all other circumstances inherent to dog and outdoor activities apply when using the Dog Beach.
- Attempting to break up a fight between dogs can be dangerous and may result in you being attacked by the dogs or assaulted by the owner(s). **Therefore, City of Evanston employees WILL NOT break up fights.** That will be the responsibility of the dog owners/handlers.
- It must be recognized that it is impossible for the City of Evanston to guarantee absolute safety.

Warning of Risk

Dog activities are intended to provide a fun and rewarding experience for a dog and its owner. However, despite careful and proper preparation, instruction, medical advice, conditioning and equipment, there is still a risk of serious injury, including death to either the dog or its owner. Dogs are pack animals and when "off leash," even the best-trained dogs will act instinctively. Understandably, not all hazards and dangers associated with dog activities can be foreseen. Certain inherent risks include the propensity of any dog to behave in dangerous ways that may result in injury to another patron or dog. Other risks include, but are not limited to, the inexperience, negligence or irresponsibility of a dog owner; the inability to predict a dog's reaction to sound, movements, objects, persons, or other animals; and actions

by the dog due to fright, anger, stress, insect bites, or natural reactions such as jumping, pulling, resisting and biting. Other risks include the hazards associated with environmental and traffic conditions, acts of God, inclement weather, slipping, falling, premises defects, failure in instruction/supervision, and all other circumstances inherent to dog and outdoor activities. Should you attempt to break up a fight between dogs, you may be attacked and severely mauled by the other dog or attacked by the other patron. In this regard, it must be recognized that it is impossible for the City of Evanston to guarantee absolute safety. **All dog owners, guests and dogs enter the Dog Beach at their own risk.**

Evanston Dog Beach - Aggressive Dog Policy Statement

What is aggressive behavior?

- Aggressive behavior is difficult to define, taking into consideration all the different breeds of dogs using the Dog Beach, what an owner may perceive as aggressive behavior, and the varying ability of dog owners to control their dogs. What may be aggressive to one owner may be seen as just rough play by another. Some breeds have been dubbed as aggressive based solely on their breed, while some breeds are regarded as docile. However, all dogs/breeds may become aggressive in certain situations.
- If your dog is showing aggressive tendencies, please use common sense, leash him/her immediately and exit the beach for that day.

What happens if my dog is attacked by another dog?

- The dog owners involved in any aggressive behavior **MUST** be able to communicate in a civil manner with each other. You should exchange contact information and, if you or your dog were in the wrong, accept responsibility.
- If the dispute cannot be settled civilly, then the Evanston Police Department needs to be called and a report filed. The City of Evanston does have a dangerous dog ordinance (9-4-17).

Who is responsible for medical damages if a dog, guest or owner is hurt by another dog or owner?

- The City of Evanston is not responsible for any damages resulting from injuries from a dog or owner. This is a matter that must be handled between you and the other party. If needed, you should call the Evanston Police and file a formal complaint.
- The Parks and Recreation Department will not provide personal information regarding another dog owner without a request of law enforcement.

The Evanston Dog Beach is a large and often crowded OFF LEASH area and for it to work:

1. Each individual dog owner MUST be responsible for supervising their dog(s) at all times.
2. Each individual dog owner MUST take responsibility for the actions of their dog(s).
3. Each individual dog owner MUST be able to control their dog(s).
4. If you do not have excellent control of your dog, maybe the Dog Beach is not the place to take him/her.
5. Cooperation between dog owners is ESSENTIAL to ensure the safety and enjoyment of everyone.
6. Please be responsible and respect all other dog owners. The City of Evanston CANNOT legislate responsible behavior. This is up to you, the individual dog owner.
7. All dog beach pass holders are responsible for the Dog Beach and must partially self-police the beach and help keep it trouble free.

The City of Evanston Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank you for your consideration in the patronage of the Dog Beach. We know that this is a lot of information to digest but please try and understand that every policy in this packet is designed to insure the best possible experience for all of the dog(s) and their owners that utilize the beach, while at the same time minimize the risk and liability of the city. We have a diverse group of dogs and their owners. Since everyone's needs vary, we consider all of them in the policies that we have control over. We pride ourselves in providing a safe, well maintained facility and with your assistance and input we hope to continue to operate this facility for years to come.

For more information, please contact 847-448-4311 or visit our website at cityofevanston.org/dogbeach

Fee Per Dog: Evanston Resident (60201/60202): \$75
 Nonresident: \$200
 Starting August 1, fees are half-price

Please print clearly.

Owner's Name _____ Street address _____
 City/State/ZIP _____ Phone number _____ Email: _____

SIGN UP FOR E-MAIL NOTIFICATIONS: The Recreation Division uses e-mail to notify patrons of closures and for other correspondence. If you have an e-mail address, but are not already on the list, please join it. We will not sell your e-mail address or abuse the privilege. **To join the list:** go to www.cityofevanston.org/newsletter, enter and submit your e-mail address, then select "Dog Beach" from Recreation section.

Please fill in your dog's information Shaded area below is for office use only.

	Name	Breed	Color	Sex	3 Vet Verification	3 Pet License	Pass Numbers
1							
2							
3							

CITY OF EVANSTON — DOG BEACH WAIVER & RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

Please read this form carefully and be aware that in consideration for permission to use this facility, you will be expressly assuming the risk and legal liability and waiving and releasing all claims for injuries, damages or loss which you or your dog might sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with and associated with use of the dog beach.

I recognize and acknowledge that there are certain risks of physical injury to the dog and its owner in association with participating in dog activities, and I voluntarily agree to assume the full risk of any injuries, damages or loss, regardless of severity, that I might sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with use of the dog beach.

I do hereby agree to waive, relinquish, release and forever discharge the City of Evanston including its officials, agents, volunteers and employees from any and all claims for injuries, damages or loss that I may have or which may accrue to me and arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with this use of this facility or surrounding area.

I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless and defend the City of Evanston from and against any and all losses, claims, damages, liabilities, cause of actions, and expenses (including attorney fees), on account of personal injuries or death to any person or dog, or damages to property occurring, growing out of, incident to, or resulting directly or indirectly from my use of this facility or surrounding area.

 Signature Printed Name Date

- 3 Dog Beach Permit Application **Check List** Please check the boxes in this area before submitting your application
- Required shots and tests:** The veterinarian verification form (Section 1 on back) showing proof for all my dogs has been completed. Yes
- Pet license:** I have completed Section 2 (on back) and attached any proofs required Yes
- Payment:** I have enclosed full payment for my dog beach permit(s) Yes

Cook County Animal and Rabies Ordinance Verification Form

Sections 1 & 2 must be filled out completely

Cook County requires that operators of an off leash dog facility verify that all dogs using said facility:

1. Show proof of current vaccinations/tests for: Rabies, Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus, Bortetella, Leptospirosis and Stool sample.
2. Show proof that they are licensed by the municipality where their owner resides OR provide proof that their municipality does not require a pet license.
 - The City of Evanston **CAN NOT** waive any of these requirements, only Cook County can issue a waiver.
 - If you would like to inquire about a waiver or have questions about these requirements, you will need to contact Cook County at 708-974-6140.
 - If they do issue you a waiver, you will need to attach that waiver to your Dog Beach Permit application.

Section 1: Vaccinations & Tests Verification: *Please have your veterinarian office/animal hospital fill in and sign or stamp.*

I verify that the following dog/dogs are current in all the vaccinations and tested as required by the Cook County Animal & Rabies Control Ordinance: Vaccinations for Rabies, Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus, Bordetella, Leptospirosis and a Stool Sample test for internal parasites.

Dog #1 (name) _____ Dog#2 (name) _____ Dog #3 (name) _____

Veterinarian/Animal Hospital: _____

Address, City: _____ Phone: _____

Signature of Veterinarian, Staff or Office Stamp: _____

Section 2: Verification of Pet License: *Please fill in to show proof of Pet License.*

Evanston Residents (60201 & 60202)

My 2023 City of Evanston Pet License Number/s are:	Dog 1:	Dog 2:	Dog 3:
--	--------	--------	--------

Non-residents

My municipality requires a pet license: I have attached proof that my dog/s have a valid license	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
My municipality DOES NOT require a pet license: I have attached the required proof	<input type="checkbox"/> YES