

## DOGS, PARKS & PEOPLE

The keys to successful visits to our parks, open spaces, trails, and designated off-leash area are to know the characteristics of your dog, train your dog to minimize any potential conflicts, and to take responsibility for the dog's actions. Keep these thoughts in mind when visiting with your dog.

- Ask before allowing your dog to greet other people or dogs
- Watch your dog for signs of interest in wildlife and correct any behavior which might lead to chasing or killing wildlife before it happens
- Pick up your dog's excrement to minimize the spread of disease and to ensure that other visitors are not offended
- Obey our leash laws and use good judgment
- Keep your dog up-to-date on shots and license
- If in doubt, please do not bring your dog to the off-leash area
- Report individuals who misuse the off-leash area and break leash laws

***We hope you enjoy this new addition to our park system!***

## DOG ORDINANCES

- Dogs are allowed in all city parks except for South Sippo Park.
- Dogs MUST be on a leash at all times. The leash must not exceed 6ft at Reservoir and North Sippo Parks.
- Owners MUST clean-up after their dogs in all parks.
- A designated off-leash area is located at Furnas Park only.

*Your understanding and abiding by these rules is much appreciated.*

## SPONSORS WANTED

If you or your company is interested in any type of sponsorship for the Dog Park or is willing to make a donation towards the improvements please contact us at (330) 832-1621.

### City of Massillon Parks and Recreation Department

505 Erie Street, North  
Massillon, OH 44646  
(330) 832-1621  
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*Explore the Benefits!*

# Off-Leash Dog Park

***Located at Furnas Park  
(Hankins/17th St NE)***



### City of Massillon Parks and Recreation



*Explore the Benefits!*

## INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

Thousands of individuals and families visit our nearly 500 acres of parks, open space and trails each year. Visitors hike, bike, study and photograph nature, play sports, and visit with family and friends.

An important part of many families is the dog. As evidenced by the input received from residents there was a need in Massillon to recognize and respond to the legitimate needs of dog owners interested in the valid recreational activity of watching, and interacting with, dogs at play. The City provides many different recreational activities in its parks and other recreational facilities. It seemed appropriate to attempt to find a way to satisfy the needs of Massillon's dog owners for their choice of personal recreation.

Dog owners for many years have sought out less-used parks and have allowed their dogs to exercise off their leashes, in spite of the City's leash law. These dog owners represent, for the most part, responsible pet owners with well-behaved, well-trained dogs. They enjoy socializing with other pet owners while their dogs engage in active play. When the weather is inclement dog walkers are often the only people in the parks. But when the weather is good the parks are more heavily used, and there are more encounters with people apprehensive about an unfamiliar dog.

With this in mind, the Massillon Parks and Recreation Department has created an off-leash area within its existing park system for families who want to recreate with their dogs. Furnas Park (Hankins / 17th Street NE) now features two off-leash areas, for large dogs and smaller dogs. Exercise and obstacle course features will be added as this facility continues to be improved each year.

## OFF-LEASH DOG PARK RULES

- I. No person may bring into the off-leash area site:**
  - dangerous and/or aggressive dogs
  - any Presa Canarios
  - a female dog in heat
  - more than two (2) dogs at one time
  - a dog without a current license and updated shot records
  - food or drink of any kind and treats for dogs
- II. Any person who brings a dog into the off-leash site shall:**
  - use provided materials and implements for removing and disposing of dog excreta and remove all excreta deposited by the dog in the off-leash site
  - lead the dog on a leash and retain the dog in custody when entering and exiting the off-leash site
  - keep the dog under visual and voice control at all times while in the off-leash site
  - stay in the off leash area with their dog at all times
  - fill any holes that the dog digs in the off-leash site as well as other places in the park
  - remove the dog from the off-leash site at the first sign of aggression
  - be fully responsible and liable for the behavior and actions of their dog
  - be able to show proof of current license and updated shot records if asked by City personnel
  - abide by all other City rules and codes relating to dog ownership and care



**III. Any person who brings a child under 12 years of age into an off-leash site shall keep the child under strict supervision. Children under age 6 not permitted in off-leash area.**

**IV. Use of an off-leash site by any dog constitutes:**

- implied consent of the owner, harborer, or person having care, custody or control of the dog to comply with all conditions and regulations stated in the section or promulgated by the Recreation Board and posted at the off-leash site
- implied consent from the owner that the dog has a current license and up-to-date shot records
- a waiver of liability to the City of Massillon, and the Parks and Recreation Department by the owner, or person having care, custody or control of the dog, and an agreement and undertaking to protect, indemnify, defend, and hold the City harmless, for any injury or damage caused by the dog during any time that the dog is in the off-leash site

**V. Hours of Operation: Dawn to Dusk**

## DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A volunteer advisory committee meets quarterly each year to address any issues relating the Furnas Park Off-leash Area. This group will also make recommendations for improvements to the facility and will assist in the planning of special events for this site.

If you are interested in joining this committee please contact us at 330-832-1621. Space is limited, so there may not always be an opening available.