

Sugar Grove Dog Park
Sugar Grove Park District
Dog Park Members Manual
Guidelines, Park Rules & Information

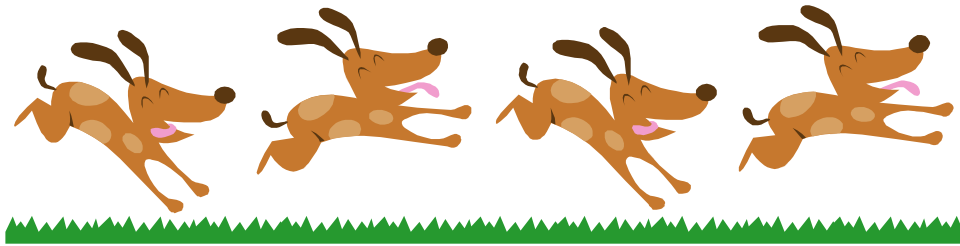


Sugar Grove Dog Park
901 Wheeler Road
Sugar Grove, IL 60554
www.sgparks.org

630-466-7436

Membership is from April 1st thru March 31st of each year.

Sign up for some good ole' tail wagging fun!



Dog Park Rules

1. This dog park is to be used only by dogs with a Sugar Grove Park District dog park membership.
2. Registration is based on an annual membership. Membership fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.
3. Anyone caught allowing a non-pass holder into the dog park will immediately have their pass revoked.
4. Dog park will be monitored by Sugar Grove Park District employees.
5. Climbing on or over the fence is **NOT** permitted.
6. Dogs must be current on their vaccinations (distemper, hepatitis, kennel cough and rabies).
7. Food (people food, dog food or treats) are not allowed into the park. Food may make a dog become aggressive.
8. Smoking is not permitted inside the dog park. Cigarette butts can be dangerous if swallowed.
9. No alcoholic beverages or glass containers permitted.
10. Children under 12 need to be accompanied by an adult. Children under the age of 6 are not allowed into the park.
11. Dogs **MUST** be leashed while entering and exiting the park. Handlers must have leash in their possession at **ALL** times. Dogs not leashed outside of the dog park are subject to loss of dog park privileges.
12. Aggressive dogs must be removed from the park **IMMEDIATELY**.
13. Dogs in heat (estrus) are not permitted in the park.
14. Spayed/neutered animals recommended.
15. Dog owners are completely responsible for their dog's actions.
16. Cooperation between handlers is expected and required.
17. Toys are permitted at your own risk.
18. Handlers are limited to (3) three dogs per visit.
19. Puppies under (4) four months of age are prohibited.
20. Dog owners **MUST** clean up after their pet and fill all holes their dog digs. Please dispose of waste properly.
21. Dogs left unattended will be impounded.
22. **Infractions of any park rules will result in permanent revocation of a dog's membership and the privilege to use this park. Rules will be strictly enforced with zero tolerance.**

Recommendations for Fun and Safety

- Do not open the outside gate if an inside gate is open.
- Check all entrances before unleashing your dog.
- All dogs should be current with health care preventative; this includes Kennel Cough, Rabies Distemper or a positive Titer Test.
- Please be sure to bring water for your dog. Your dog will get thirsty and needs to be kept hydrated. The dog park does not have a water source.
- All dogs benefit from guidance and structure. Basic obedience is a must for a well socialized happy dog.
- Posted dog park rules must be observed and followed by users.
- Please make sure to close the gates and do not offer entry to anyone who is not a dog park member.
- Scoop the Poop! Help us keep the park clean by picking up after your dog and disposing of waste properly. This **DOES NOT** mean you can toss your used bag over the fence.

Potential Risks

The Sugar Grove Park District strives to provide a fun, safe environment for you and your canine friends. However, by using this facility you agree that you understand and assume all responsibility and liability for the risks of unleashing your dog in the dog park.

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 lodge 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 park 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 users 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 paid privilege. Please do not allow unacceptable or irresponsible behavior to ruin the fun for the other users.

Play or Fight? Know Your Dog!

Before you use the dog park, know your dog! Check your ego at the gate and be realistic rather than idealistic when it comes to your dog's temperament.

Be aware that dogs have a different play styles, temperaments and physical abilities. Many dogs love rambunctious play, but some dogs suffer from injuries and some are more timid and 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 from the park. Don't wait for someone to ask you to do the polite thing. Remember, a little common sense and courtesy go 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 or she is and no matter how much you want your dog to be able to use the park, if he/she is acting aggressively, he/she needs to leave.

Prevent a Dog Fight Before it Happens - Learn the 4-P Warning Signs:

- **Posture:** A dog's body language can communicate fear, hostility or submission. Learn to read and to respond to your own dog's body language, and others.
- **Packing:** More than 2 or 3 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 Fight:

- Pay attention to your dog and be aware of where he is and what he is doing at all times.
- Stay close enough to control or protect your dog in the face of a potential fight.
- Keep a collar on your dog at all times so 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.

What You Can Do If a Fight Occurs:

- Never reach your hands into the middle of a dogfight. You may get bit, and often by your own dog.
- Distract the dogs and divert their attention. A blast of water from a water bottle, a loud whistle, or a pocket air horn may work.
- If your dog is not in the fight, make sure he does not join in.
- If a fight occurs, control your dog and remove him to a neutral area.
- Maintain a cool head. Getting upset and yelling will only add to the frenzy.
- When warranted, exchange contact information with the other dog owners. If you can't because you must attend to your dog, designate someone else to get information.

A dogfight can be violent and is upsetting to everyone present.

- **Attitude:** Even the calmest, most pleasant, well-adjusted person may become upset, angry or belligerent if they or their dog is injured in a fight. Emotional behavior is automatic; try to remain calm and as objective as possible.

- **Legal Responsibility:** Owners are solely liable for injuries or damage caused by their dogs. This includes injury to another dog or person, no matter how it began, who said what, or whatever.
- **Exchange Information:** All involved parties should provide pertinent information including name, address, phone numbers, vet information and vaccination records to each other.
- **Report the Incident:** Minor scuffles occur frequently. In the case of a serious fight or injury or a dog that clearly exhibits aggressive behavior, call the police by calling 630-466-4526 to report the incident immediately. Also report the event to the Sugar Grove Park District by calling 630-466-7436 so a record can be kept. You must have information on the offending person, even if it is only a license plate number.

Your dog is your personal property. You are legally responsible for damage or injury caused by your dog!

What to do if a Dog Bite Occurs

- **Call 630-466-4526 for immediate police assistance and the Sugar Grove Park District at 630-466-7436**

In order for the bite to be defined as a bite - it must break the skin and must have been caused by oral contact (not a nail scratch).

A dog bite to a human or another animal **must be reported**. The biting animal will be quarantined for ten days to ensure it is healthy and does not pose a rabies risk. In this case, the bite most likely happened inside the confines of the dog park so the dog will be considered legally restrained at the time of the bite. If a dog bite happens while at the park:

- Immediately secure the biting dog and the victim dog. Leash them and keep them 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 dogs home or to a veterinarian for necessary medical care. If a bite has occurred to a person, consult a physician.

Doggie Etiquette

- **On leash or off?** Believe it or not, many dog parks request dogs to be off leash, unless dog and owner are specifically traveling from one end of the park to the other. Off-leash dogs intimidate leashed dogs. When leashed, a dog knows he doesn't have the same freedom of movement and tends to react defensively or fearfully. You may want to let him run around with the leash still attached, so you can grab him at a greater distance, if need be.

- **Dog fights.** Because they are on “neutral territory” in a park, dogs have less to fight about. Even territorial dogs become friendlier when off their home turf. However, fights do occur occasionally. Dogs that have the most fun at parks are those that have been well socialized at an early age.
- **Health issues.** It is extremely important for your dog to have up-to-date vaccinations (rabies and distemper, for instance). Likewise, don't bring your dog if he's not feeling well. He may get even sicker or make someone else's dog ill.

Human Etiquette

- **Scoop the poop.** The biggest complaints arise when nature calls. The park is **NOT** a convenient place to let your dog do its business. Scooping the poop is always the responsibility of the owner. Bags and a dumpster are available at the dog park entrance to make this necessary task easier. Take one when you enter so that you will have it with you when needed. Tossing the used bags over the fence is not disposing of it properly.
- **Overly friendly dogs.** Think of your dog's behavior as a reflection on your own manners. Is it polite to let a child run up to strangers and kiss them repeatedly? (Hopefully, you answered no to that one.) Well, it isn't polite to let your dog run up to other people uninvited and plant sloppy kisses on them either. This is a major complaint at dog parks.
- **Supervise children closely.** Children under six are not allowed in the dog park. This is because young children may become frightened by a friendly dog, or could get knocked down and hurt accidentally.

New to the dog park?

- If your dog shows aggressive behavior, take it out of the park. It can endanger other dogs and dog owners. Please do not be afraid to encourage other park users to remove their dog if it exhibits inappropriate behavior.
- Supervise younger children. They can get hurt and sometimes scare other dogs. Children under six are not allowed in the dog park.
- Ease your dog into the park atmosphere. Plan visits during non-peak hours.
- 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 entry gates. They may intimidate newly arriving dogs or dash out the gate.
- Always clean up after your dog. Waste bags and a dumpster are provided at the park entrance.

Questions or Concern?

If you are concerned that someone is not following the posted rules and he/she or his/her dog is presenting a problem for others (even after receiving considerate requests from others to comply) please do not hesitate to call for help from the park district office to handle the situation. Do not confront combative or argumentative individuals, just call the authorities or leave the park (and call the authorities). **Contact the Sugar Grove Park District at 630-466-7436 Monday through Friday 9-4PM.**