

Dog Park Creation and Regulation

MTAS Research and Information Center Survey | November 2014



Municipality	Do you have off-leash dog parks? If so, how many?	How did you go about deciding whether to add them and where to put them?	Did you conduct a feasibility study prior to establishing the park(s)? If so, can you share it?	What is the funding model for these parks? Is there support from local non-profits or businesses?	Did you follow any sort of design guidelines for the parks and/or hire a designer?	Can you share any regulations or ordinances for the park?
Chattanooga <i>David Johnson</i> <i>Parks & Rec</i> <i>423-643-6165</i>	Yes, 3	They based their decision on: how many people will use them and what times of day and seasons. Listen to requests from community. More residential areas. Proximity of from larger population. Geospatial analyzing.	No	East Brainerd Dog park has a contractor. There is an annual fee for the park. City of Chatt. Is responsible for maintenance which is around 70-85% of the park's budget. Meanwhile, the contractor is responsible for programs and any other equipment. The other two dog parks are free to the public, and all the funding comes from the Park & Rec. Budget. DoGood Chattanooga is a non-profit that occasionally helps fund necessary materials and equipment.	They hired a designer for East Brainerd. They choose locations based on GIS and topical indexes. No drainage issues.	Posted in park. No more than 2 dogs. Must have tags on. Must be current on all shots and have proof. Must have paid all taxes. Will issue citations for dogs without tags.

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Clarksville Kevin Cowling (931) 645-7476	Yes, 2: · 1 off-leash dog park that's free (Heritage Park Dog Park) · 1 off-leash dog park that's gated and people must purchase a key fob and register their dog to enter; dogs must be spayed or neutered in this park (King's Run at Liberty Park)	· There was an obvious need in the community for people to have a place to exercise their dogs. The first dog park was at Fairgrounds Park (now called Liberty Park), and it was very popular, so they added a second at Heritage Park, on the other side of the city. · Definitely worth doing. Not only for people to be able to exercise pets, but other social events like "Doggie Palooza."	No feasibility study	General fund; located in established city parks, so park staff maintains them. They do turf management using organic materials (same as is done in other areas of all the city parks); not doing rotation of off-leash areas.	Liberty Park (formerly Fairgrounds Park) underwent extensive, multimillion dollar renovation recently. JJR in Madison, WI, did the renovation, so JJR most likely handled the dog park renovation (not 100% sure). But the King's Run Dog Park in LP was definitely professionally designed and upgraded as part of the LP renovation. Small and large dog areas, separated by pavilion.	Posted at both parks and online. Both dog parks require current records/vaccinations for dogs, other standard rules/regulations. Also, if people are caught letting other people's unregistered dogs into King's Run (which requires registration/key), they may lose their access to the park.
Franklin Kevin Lindsey (615) 794-2103 kevinl@franklintn.gov	Yes, 2	· Visited nearby cities' dog parks, such as Murfreesboro and Kingston Springs, and interviewed people who used those parks about what they liked/didn't like about the facilities. · During the economic downturn, the dog parks were a way to use land productively without incurring major expenses. The most expensive feature in the parks was probably the water fountain. Also added shelters and concrete seating. · When the second park opened, they made sure to have separate small and large dog areas. · TRPA seminars were also informative/helpful.	No feasibility study	Nutro Co. (headquarters nearby, in Middle TN) sponsored improvements; they contribute around \$5,000/year (rough estimate). They schedule work days where they help with maintenance such as planting trees, adding benches, etc.	· No. Used area parks as guidelines, listened to feedback from people who used those parks, attended TRPA seminars and used own knowledge to formulate design. There is a smaller area roughly 20' x 20' where handlers take their dogs off leash, then from there take them into the park. · Recommendation for other cities planning a dog park: more space is preferable; it would also be a good idea to have multiple paddocks/runs, so that you could rotate which ones are in use so that grass can recover, etc.	Posted at entry to each park. Dogs must be up-to-date with vaccinations, be healthy, etc. Posted online.

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Johnson City <i>(423)-283-5815</i>	Yes, 1	The city commission and suggestions from the public.	No.	Qn organization in the city funds the park. The Parks & Rec. depart. only helps with maintenance and fencing.	No. The Parks & Rec. department designed it.	Just clean-up after dog.
Knoxville <i>Mike Harris</i> <i>(865) 215-2018</i>	Yes, 4	Saw need in community. Leash laws caused need for place for dogs to run free. Response to demand.	No feasibility study. Most helpful resources NRPA and TRPA magazine articles about dog parks. A community organization brought the need for a dog park to the attention of the Parks & Rec. dept. The organization recommended how big the park needed to be and what amenities it needed.	The city is responsible for all maintenance. Petsafe donated money for initial building costs of dog parks. Also, the first dog park built was partially funded by the community organization.	No. NRPA and TRPA magazine articles were very helpful. For the South Knox park, an architecture firm volunteered to design the park because space was limited.	Posted in park. All dogs must have tags. No alcohol. Dogs must have all shots. City not responsible if dogs attack one another.
Mt. Juliet <i>Assistant Director</i> <i>(615)758-6522</i>	Yes,2	For the first park, they had extra space in an already established park, so they saw a need in the community and added a dog park. They built the second park because someone donated land in the central part of town for a dog park.	No feasibility study.	The Park & Recreation department is in charge of all funding.	No. They designed it themselves. They googled to see what other cities' dog parks look like.	Dogs must have tags and be up to date on all shots.

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Murfreesboro <i>Melinda Tate</i> <i>(615) 893-2141</i>	Yes, 1, with separate small and large dog areas	Not sure; park was established prior to hire. However, having a dog park is definitely worth doing. The park is popular and is a very social place for the dogs' owners as well, not just their dogs.	No.	City-funded, from Parks and Recreation budget. "Friends of the Greenway" organization donated the water fountain; volunteers helped by building picnic table and shelter.	Very simple design; rectangular fenced-in area adjacent to the greenway that leads toward trailhead. Originally mostly bare soil; now extended to include grassy areas at the edges of the park + picnic area on grass.	Posted in park and online. Standard rules such as dogs must have rabies and ID tags, not be aggressive; City is not responsible for injuries, etc. No breed-specific rules (i.e., pit bulls are allowed, as long as they aren't aggressive). Phone # is posted for people to report problems.

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<p>Oak Ridge <i>Spoke with Secretary in Parks Department as the main contact, Josh Collins, was out of the office until 11/17/2014</i></p>	<p>Yes, 1</p>	<p><i>Will need to speak with Josh Collins for this information on 11/17/2014</i></p>	<p><i>Will need to speak with Josh Collins for this information on 11/17/2014</i></p>	<p>The dog park was built with a \$100,000 grant from PetSafe, administered through the Legacy Parks Foundation. This generous donation to the city has provided the opportunity to construct Oak Ridge's first dog park.</p>	<p><i>Will need to speak with Josh Collins for this information on 11/17/2014</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Posted in park. Dogs must be leashed when entering and exiting the park and dog owners must have a leash in possession at all times inside the park. · The City of Oak Ridge is not responsible for injuries to dogs, their owners/handlers, or others that use the park. This area is for dogs and their handlers only. · Limit of 3 dogs per adult. · No smoking, food, or beverages within the park. · DOG WASTE MUST BE CLEANED UP IMMEDIATELY BY THE DOG OWNERS AND PLACED IN THE TRASH RECEPTACLES PROVIDED. · Dogs must be current with all vaccinations, healthy, and wearing a collar with identification and current rabies tag at all times. · Dogs in heat and puppies under 4 months of age are prohibited. · Pets other than dogs are prohibited from entering the park. · Dog owners are responsible for ensuring that their dogs do not escape from the fenced area. · Children under 16 must be supervised by an adult. · Dogs showing aggression toward people or other animals must be removed from the park. · Dog owners must be in the park with their dogs at all times.

Additional Information

Selected Tennessee Cities Dog Park Information and Rules online:

Chattanooga – <http://www.chattanooga.gov/public-works/parks/pets-policies>

Dogood Chattanooga: Citizens for a Dog Friendly Chattanooga <http://dogoodchattanooga.com/dog-friendly/welcome-to-dogood-chattanooga-dog-friendly-on-the-we/>

Clarksville – <http://www.cityofclarksville.com/index.aspx?page=165> | <http://www.cityofclarksville.com/index.aspx?page=123>

Franklin – <http://www.franklin-gov.com/government/parks/facilities-and-parks/dogs-dog-parks>

Johnson City – <http://www.icdogpark.com/>

Knoxville - <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/recreation/dogparks.asp>

Mt. Juliet – <http://www.cityofmtjuliet.org/SouthMountJulietCityPark.cfm>

Murfreesboro – <http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/index.aspx?NID=183>

Oak Ridge – <http://orrecparks.oakridgetn.gov/dog-parks/>

Additional Tennessee Cities Documents (sent separately as PDFs)

- Kingsport – Dog park citizen support survey
- Nashville -- Dog Parks Policy Manual
- Nashville – Dog Management on Park Property Position Paper
- Mt. Juliet -- Dog Parks Rules

General Information

- American Kennel Club [Establishing a Dog Park in Your Community](#), 2008
- U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine [Guidelines for Establishment and Maintenance of Successful Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas](#), produced by the program in Veterinary Behavioral Medicine
- Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA (San Mateo County, CA) [How to Build a Dog Park in Your Community](#)
- Sammamish [Beaver Lake Park Off-Leash Area](#), Project was 2007-2008
- <http://www.dogpark.com/dog-park-rules/>
- <https://www.animallaw.info/article/designing-model-dog-park-law>

Plans and Studies

- Bellevue Parks and Community Services [Off-Leash Dog Study Draft](#), 2009

- Wenatchee [Dog Off Leash Area Feasibility Study](#), 2009
- http://www.meridian.mi.us/vertical/sites/%7B1800D46E-0900-43BD-B3FA-10A5660870B1%7D/uploads/Dog_Park_Report_recommendations_from_friends_advisory_group.pdf
- Denver CO Dog Park Master Plan (sent separately as a PDF)