

Attributes Necessary for Dog Parks

(Items marked with '**' are not needed in every park,
but should be provided in at least one local park)

Space

1. Sufficient space for active dogs to run freely, and for dogs that chase tennis balls and frisbees to be able to do so without interfering with more sedate dog park users.
- ** 2. Space appropriate for joint human/canine exercise such as jogging. This should either be separated from, or sufficiently distant from, other users who may have dogs from herding breeds (Australian Shepherds, Border Collies, Bearded Collies, etc.) That might see joggers as an opportunity to use their inborn skills.
3. Sufficient space and appropriate topography so that less active dogs can avoid unwanted attention from more rambunctious ones.
 - some localities have designated a park, or part of a park, as 'small dog use only.'
4. Sufficient space so that overuse does not create problems with density, either from aggression due to over-crowding by dogs, or degradation of the property from overuse (primarily dust and mud).
5. Good sight lines over large areas so that human users can monitor their dogs.
- ** 6. Having one or more woodland trail designated for off leash dog recreation would be a welcome addition for many dog owners.

Facilities

1. Natural or man-made barriers to separate off leash dogs from hazards such as cars.
2. Natural or man-made barriers, and appropriate signs, to keep people who would prefer not to interact with off leash dogs from inadvertently entering the area.
3. Several separate shady areas.
4. Adequate drainage to ensure mud holes don't develop.
5. Access to clean water for
 - drinking
- ** - recreational swimming and retrieving for water breeds, and for cooling off for other breeds
- ** - hydrotherapy for dogs on restricted activity

6. A community message board or similar area where expectations for dog and dog owner behavior can be posted, along with other messages of interest.
7. Easy access with sufficient parking and/or with trails leading to residential areas.
- ** 8. If there are multiple parks, then several TCDOG members have requested that one park be fenced, so that they can release their dogs without fear that they will run off. Some breeds, including most hounds, can be hard to control just by voice command.
- ** 9. Lighting for use when winter days are short and people often may not be able to visit the park before dark.
- ** 10. Pavilion or outdoor gazebo for meetings.
- ** 11. Especially if there are multiple parks, it would be beneficial if there was space appropriate for use by obedience and agility classes in at least one park. This would allow TCDOG to fulfill a different aspect of its mandate to increase positive interaction among people and dogs.

Maintenance

1. Access to bags for waste and covered garbage cans or dumpsters, with regular waste removal.
2. Regular mowing of grassy areas to reduce ticks and ensure adequate sight lines.
3. Benches for elderly, handicapped, and leisurely human park users.
4. Adequate access to at least part of the park for people with mobility issues.

Approved by the TCDOG Executive Council, May 11, 2005.