

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/45207>

Dogs for the Environment

Responsible pet ownership means more than licensing and vaccinating your pet. Here are some actions you and your dog can take to keep our beautiful city safe, healthy and enjoyable for all.

Respect no-dog areas

No dogs, either on or off-leash, are allowed at Foster Floodplain Natural Area, Tanner Springs Park, Whitaker Ponds Nature Park, or the amphitheater at Mt Tabor Park. The wildlife habitat, water quality, and environment in these parks are particularly vulnerable to dog impacts. Dog owners help protect these parks by visiting them without their pets.

Leash your dog

While your dog is your friendly, furry companion, other animals and even people may view dogs as a threat. Unleashed dogs can harm birds, amphibians, fish, and other wildlife. They may also disturb breeding areas or harass wintering wildlife causing them to use valuable energy reserves. Dogs running loose in natural parks also trample plants and create inappropriate trails. Worse, they can endanger themselves, other dogs, and people. Portland City Code requires that all dogs in parks must be kept on a leash unless in a designated off-leash area.

Scoop the poop

Dog poop is essentially raw sewage; it contains harmful organisms like E. coli, Leptospira, and roundworms. These organisms can be contracted by other dogs, wildlife, and even children. Bacteria from dog poop can wash into rivers and streams when it rains. City Code also requires that all poop must be picked up and disposed of into the proper receptacle. Violation of either leash or scoop laws will result in a fine of up to \$150.

Off-leash areas

Every dog deserves the freedom to run, play, and socialize with other dogs. Portland Parks & Recreation offers 33 off-leash areas, ranking first in the country for dog parks per capita, according to the Trust for Public Land rankings.

Parks are for everyone

Our parks and natural areas not only provide recreation and relaxation for people, children, and dogs, they also provide important habitat for fish and wildlife. Our parks are home to threatened salmon, salamanders, and birds. To protect these valuable resources, parks sometimes undergo restoration. You may notice fences going up near trails and streams; these fences are to protect parks from further degradation, and ensure the success of restoration efforts. Between 2002 and 2007, 36,500 volunteers gave 146,000 hours of their time to help restore Portland's natural areas. If you would like to get involved, volunteer opportunities are available throughout the city.

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/165123>

i'm for the environment pledge brochure

Human: I pledge to be

environmentally responsible by:

**Keeping my dog on leash and on the
trail in natural areas**

Scooping and properly disposing of poop

**Avoiding contact with streams
and wildlife**

signature:

**Dog: I pledge to do my part to
be environmentally responsible
and earn the right to proudly
wear my green bandana.**

paw:

To receive your green bandana, please sign

the pledge, cut it out, and send it to:

Dogs for the Environment...

**<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/332304>
Portland's Sensitive Wildlife and Your Dog brochure**

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/60256>

- [Off-Leash Area Rules](#)

- [Dogs for the Environment](#)
- [Pet Health for Parks \(PDF\)](#)
- [Salud de Mascotas para Parques \(PDF\)](#)
- [Petiquette for Parks \(PDF\)](#)
- [Etiqueta para Parques \(PDF\)](#)

Visiting Parks with Pets

Dogs (and their owners!) are among the most active and enthusiastic visitors to Portland's parks, trails and natural areas. Dog owners keep parks safe, healthy and enjoyable for their pets, other pets, and all park visitors by:

- Obeying [leash and scoop laws](#)
- Knowing and following the [off-leash area rules](#)
- Practicing good "petiquette." Our [Petiquette for Parks guide \(PDF\)](#) helps dog owners have the best park experience possible, and includes dog behavior basics, owner to-dos, and ways to get involved at your local OLA.
- Protecting the health of pets. Portland Parks & Recreation and the Portland Veterinary Medical Association partnered to develop [Pet Health for Parks \(PDF\)](#), a guide to keeping your dog healthy for park play.
- Protecting the health of park land and wildlife. Learn more about [Dogs for the Environment](#).

To request hard copies of any of our guides, contact us at 503-823-DOGS.

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<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/365964>

Practicing good "petiquette." helps dog owners have the best park experience possible, and includes dog behavior basics, owner to-dos, and ways to get involved at your local OLA.

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/422872>

Pet Health for Parks

Pet Health for Parks is brought to you by a partnership between Portland Parks & Recreation and the Portland Veterinary Medical Association.

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/321761>

What is being done to encourage compliance with leash/scoop laws?

Though many dog owners are respectful park visitors, disregard for leash/scoop laws is an ongoing concern in many parks and natural areas. To increase compliance with leash and scoop laws, Portland Parks & Recreation uses a variety of education and enforcement strategies, as well as providing off-leash areas for dog-owner recreation.

Efforts include:

- Permanent signs posted at entry points in parks and natural areas
- Rules of use posted at each off-leash area
- Use of temporary signs, including stake signs placed directly in areas with high illegal use (such as sports fields)
- Outreach by PP&R staff and Rangers including methods such as in-park presence, attendance at community meetings, partnerships with animal organizations, media releases, social media, and events
- Ranger patrols, particularly in parks with low compliance
- Citations of up to \$150 for leash/scoop violations

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/91735>

Dog waste is messy, but is it really harmful?

Absolutely. Dog waste contains bacteria and organisms that can spread disease in people and other dogs. In humans, contact with dog waste can cause stomach illnesses and rashes. Dog waste also spreads disease among dogs, including serious illnesses like giardia and parvovirus.

Dog waste also has environmental impacts. Unlike human waste, which is directed into sewage pipes, dog waste left on the ground eventually pollutes our waterways. Left on the ground, dog waste also deposits excessive amounts of nitrogen fertilizer to the soil, increasing the spread of nitrogen-loving weeds at the expense of native plants.