

**ORDINANCE #66595**  
**Board Bill No. 403**  
**Committee Substitute**

An ordinance pertaining to dogs and dog parks; establishing rules and regulations for the leashing of dogs and the establishment and use of dog parks; amending Ordinance 65206, approved June 21, 2001, by repealing Section 10.04.220 of Section One of said Ordinance and enacting in lieu thereof a new ordinance pertaining to the leashing of dogs and dog parks, and containing an emergency clause.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS.**

**SECTION ONE.** Section 10.04.220 of SECTION ONE of Ordinance 65206 is hereby repealed and enacted in lieu thereof are the following sections:

**SECTION TWO.** Leashing of dogs. No person owning, having a proprietary interest in, harboring or having the care, charge, control, custody or possession of a dog, shall permit such dog to be in or upon any public street, park or other public place unless such dog is upon a secure leash not more than six feet long held continuously in the hands of a responsible person capable of controlling the dog, or unless the dog is securely confined within an automobile, or in or upon any enclosed lot or premises; provided, however, that this section shall not apply to any such person who is in possession or operating within the terms of a valid, unrevoked permit from the city for the conduct of obedience or other types of trial or show of dogs in or upon any public place

**SECTION THREE.** SECTION TWO shall not apply to dogs under the control of a competent person in a designated fenced dog exercise area in a city park or portion of a city park or other city-owned property approved and designated for that purpose by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry or by ordinance.

**SECTION FOUR.** The following regulations and limitations shall apply to all dog exercise areas:

1. Unless designated by ordinance, the Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry shall designate city owned property as a dog exercise area and shall issue revokable permits to a dog exercise sponsor. The City shall provide the dog exercise area. The sponsor shall provide, as a minimum, perimeter fence and double pedestrian gates and fence and gate maintenance with the expectation of reasonable user behavior. The sponsor shall register users, provide education aimed at teaching basic obedience to users, insure the overall cleanliness of the area on a day to day basis, the proper disposal of all waste, repair and seeding of bare areas and filling of holes caused by the users, general maintenance, including turf maintenance and weed control, and fence and gate maintenance which is beyond reasonable user behavior.

2. A neighborhood or a nonprofit organization must sponsor a dog exercise area.

3. Dog exercise area will be open from 6 o'clock a.m. to one hour after sunset. There shall be no lights in the exercise area except as provided in the permit. If lighting is permitted, the dog exercise area shall close at 10:00p.m.

4. As a condition of admission to such dog exercise area, the owner of such dog(s) must use a suitable container or instrument to remove dog feces from the designated area and dispose of it in the sponsor-provided waste containers. The sponsor shall provide suitable containers and shall dispose of materials in the containers in a manner that is consistent with federal, state and local ordinances and regulations.

5. Aggressive, sick dogs, and/or dogs with any external parasites are not permitted in the exercise area. Owners are legally responsible for any injury caused by their dog.

6. All dogs must be under visual and voice control by owners at all times. Excessively barking or uncontrollable dogs must be removed immediately.

7. Dogs shall not be left unattended in the exercise area. No person may bring more than three dogs into the exercise area at any one time.

8. Dogs under four (4) months old are not permitted in the exercise area.

9. All dogs shall have been vaccinated and legally licensed prior to using the facility and shall wear license and ownership tags.

10. Female dogs in estrus (heat) are not permitted in the exercise area.
11. Professional dog trainers may not use the facilities in the conduct of their business.
12. Children under 14 shall be accompanied by an adult while in the exercise area and be not permitted to run, shout, scream, wave their arms, or otherwise excite or antagonize dogs in the exercise area.
13. Bicycles, roller blades, roller skates, skateboards and strollers, and the like, are not permitted in the exercise area. Wheelchairs are permitted.
14. Choke, prong, pinch and spiked collars on dogs are not permitted in the exercise area.
15. The owner of any dog using the designated exercise areas must have in his possession at all times that the dog is in the exercise areas, a leash for such dog which shall be worn by the dog at all times that the dog is not in the exercise area.
16. Owners shall otherwise comply with all rules governing the parks and relevant parking regulations. No food shall be permitted in the dog exercise area.
17. Use of dog exercise areas by any dog shall constitute implied consent of the dog's owner to all of the conditions stated in this section and the permit and shall constitute a waiver of liability to the City of St. Louis and an agreement and undertaking to protect, indemnify, defend and hold the City of St. Louis harmless for any injury or damage caused by such dog during any time the dog is in an exercise area.
18. The dog exercise area sponsor shall provide to the Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry, on an annual basis, a liability insurance policy in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 The policy shall name the City of St. Louis as additional insured.
19. Dog exercise area sponsor may charge an annual usage fee and limit use of exercise area to those dog owners who are current in payment of the usage fee for the purpose of maintaining and improving the dog exercise area. Said fees shall be reasonable and inline with the same type of fee as set by other dog exercise areas within the City and of St. Louis County.

**SECTION FIVE.** The Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry may promulgate additional rules and regulations concerning the use of the dog exercise areas but not limited to the following:

1. Application Process: sponsoring group submits the following to director of PRF:
  - a. Letter of support from Alderperson
  - b. Letter of endorsement from applicable Neighborhood Association(s)
2. Sponsorship information: Name, address and phone numbers of primary contact person and four board members ( Primary contact will have his/her number posted on the dog park for questions and complaints);
3. Petition signed by 25 residents of the City of St. Louis who are potential dog park users with name, address, and phone number for verification.
4. The applicant must demonstrate the ability to fund the construction and maintenance of the dog park.
5. The sponsoring group must adhere to the following dog park conditions:
  - a. Size: No dog park will be more than 50,000 s. ft. and no more than 1/4th of total park acreage – an average of 500 sq. ft. per dog.
  - b. Fence height: 60 inches minimum
  - c. Gates: must be double entry
  - d. Surface: stone dust or grass. If grass, it must be irrigated and reseeded in the fall and spring –

understanding that some of the area will have to be cordoned off during the reseeding process.

- e. Water: must have a viable water source for the area
- f. Rules: Dog Park rules must be posted with the telephone number for complaints. The Animal Regulation Division of the Health Department will be the final arbitrator of complaints.
- g. All construction must conform to all existing City regulations and codes and final plans must be approved by the City.

Failure to comply with all the above rules and the rules promulgated by the Director may result in the revocation of said permit.

**SECTION SIX:** Private property Dog Parks fall under the jurisdiction of the Animal Regulation Division of the Health Department. The owner of the property must obtain an annual permit for the use of the property as a dog park. The Division may refuse to issue an annual permit if there have been violations of the rules and regulations for the use of the dog park. The property cannot be used for any other purpose other than a dog park. Listed below are the minimum rules and regulations and the Division may promulgate other rules and regulations:

1. All dogs shall be currently rabies vaccinated, registered and wearing the appropriate tag and/or held by the owner while in the park.
2. No female dogs in estrus (heat) are allowed.
3. Aggressive, sick dogs and/or dogs with any external parasites are not permitted in the dog park. Any/all dogs showing aggressive behavior towards people or other dogs must be removed immediately. Owners are responsible for any injury caused by their dog.
4. Any attack to any person or animal must be immediately reported the Animal Regulation Center.
5. All dogs must be held on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length by a responsible person so as to effectively prevent it from biting any person or animal until entry into the dog exercise area.
6. The park can only be open from 6:00 a.m. to one hour after sunset.
7. As a condition of admission to such dog park, the owner of such dog(s) must use a suitable container or instrument to remove dog feces from the designated area and dispose of it in a sponsor-provided waste container. The sponsor must provide suitable containers and shall dispose of materials in the containers in a manner that is consistent with federal, state and local laws and regulations.
8. Dogs shall not be left unattended in the dog park. No person may bring or have in the dog park more than three dogs at any one time.
9. Dogs under four (4) months old are not permitted in the dog park.
10. Professional dog trainers may not use the facilities in the conduct of their business.
11. Children under 14 shall be accompanied by an adult while in the exercise area and are not permitted to run, shout, scream, wave their arms or otherwise excite or antagonize dogs in the dog park.
12. Bicycles, roller blades, rollers skates, skateboards and strollers and similar devices are not permitted in the dog park. Wheelchairs are permitted.
13. Choke, prong, pinch and spiked collars are not permitted in the dog park.
14. No food shall be permitted in the dog park.

15. The dog park sponsor may charge an annual usage fee and limit the use of the dog park to those dog owners who are current in the payment of the usage fee which shall be used for the purpose of maintaining and improving the dog park. Said fees shall be inline with the same amount of fee as charged for the use of other dog parks and dog exercise areas with in City and St. Louis County.

16. Dog park applications and qualifications:

- a. The applicant must submit to the Division a neighborhood petition signed by a majority of person residing and a majority of person doing business within a petition circle, which is defined as an area, circular in shape, with a radius of three hundred fifty (350) feet drawn from the center of the front of the dog park project to the street. A person shall be considered to reside within the petition circle if: (1) his domicile is within the petition circle and (2) he is registered to vote from an address within the petition circle on the date the application is filed with the Division.
- b. The applicant must submit to the Division with the application the name, address and phone numbers of three contact persons. The primary contact person must have his name and number posted on the dog park for questions and complaints.
- c. The applicant must submit to the Division a drawing showing the location and size of the dog park. There shall be no less than 500 square feet for each dog in the dog park. The number of allowable dogs must be posted on the dog park gate. The applicant must demonstrate they have the ability to fund the construction and maintenance of the dog park.
- d. The dog park must be surrounded by a fence of at least five feet but no more than 8 feet.
- e. The gate must be double entry and the dog park rules must be posted on the exterior gate at all times.
- f. The surface must be stone dust or grass. If grass, it must be irrigated and reseeded in the spring and fall.
- g. There must be a viable water source in the dog park.
- h. All construction must conform to all existing city regulations and codes and final plans must be approved by the City.
- i. The Animal Regulation Division of the Health Department will be the final arbitrator of complaints and the interpretations..

**SECTION SEVEN.** Emergency clause. This being an ordinance for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, it is hereby declared to be an emergency measure within the meaning of Section 19 and 20 of Article IV of the Charter of the City of St. Louis and shall become effective immediately upon approval by the Mayor.

**Approved: February 7, 2005**