



2025
Evanston Dog Beach
Information Packet and Application



Evanston[™]
Parks & Recreation

The City of Evanston Dog Beach

The Evanston Dog Beach (EDB), located just south of Clark St. Beach (1811 Sheridan Rd.), is a popular off-leash destination for canine friends and their owners. It offers dogs the opportunity to swim, run, and mingle on the shore of beautiful Lake Michigan.

Evanston Dog Beach Hours and Pass Fees

The Evanston Dog Beach is open annually from March 1 through the first winter weather event that would prevent users from safely accessing the beach. **2025 Evanston Dog Beach passes will be available starting February 17, 2025.** Passes are FREE (\$0) for Evanston residents residing in 60201 and 60202 and \$200 (1st Dog) / \$75 (2nd Dog) for non-residents. If you lose your season pass card there is a \$10 fee for a replacement pass. Dog beach passes will be half-off as of August 1, 2025 (\$100 R/38NR).

Before Purchasing an Evanston Dog Beach Pass

Due to various agencies' requirements, many regulations and rules exist regarding the use of facilities like the Evanston Dog Beach. Please be aware of the following guidelines, rules, and restrictions before purchasing a pass.

Vaccinations, Tests & Licenses required by Cook County:

Cook County Animal & Rabies Control Ordinance requires that all dogs using a dog beach/park/off-leash area:

1. Have current vaccinations or titers (antibodies) for:

Rabies, Distemper(CFV), Hepatitis (Canine Adenovirus-2), Para-influenza (CPIV), Parvovirus (CPV), Leptospirosis, and Bordetella (kennel cough)
2. Proof of negative fecal test by a veterinarian's office for internal parasites, within the last year
3. Be licensed by the local government where the dog's owner lives
4. In addition, the dog owner or person who takes the dog to the beach/park must have a Pass/ID Card, etc., issued by the facility operator. This pass must be visible for inspection.

The City of Evanston, as the operator of the Evanston Dog Beach, must enforce the requirements of the Cook County Department of Animal & Rabies Control. The Cook County ordinance requires that the City of Evanston verify vaccination information before an Evanston Dog Beach pass can be issued. Dog owners must provide the above information to purchase an Evanston Dog Beach pass. The City of Evanston may not waive any Cook County requirements. If your dog, for medical reasons, cannot have one or more of the above-mentioned tests or vaccinations, you may apply for an exemption from the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control. Therefore, all dog owners wishing to purchase an Evanston Dog Beach pass must:

1. Provide proof of vaccinations and tests

- **Residents and Non-residents:** have your veterinarian fill out and sign the verification form on the back of the application. **YOU MUST USE THIS FORM — NO OTHER PROOF WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
2. Provide proof of pet license
 - **Evanston residents:** (60201 & 60202) have a current Evanston pet license and **provide proof of that license.** A receipt of a pet license purchase is not adequate proof.
 - **Non-residents:** show proof that the dog is licensed by the local government where the owner lives by attaching **a copy of their pet license or pet license application receipt.** Should the local government where you live NOT require a pet license, you must provide proof by attaching a letter from said local government stating they do not require a pet license.
 3. Sign the provided liability waiver
 - Residents and non-residents: sign the liability waiver form on the Evanston Dog Beach Pass application.

Evanston Pet License Information

City of Evanston ordinance requires all pets residing in Evanston to be licensed every year. ***If you do not have your current 2025 pet license, you can purchase them online (2-week lead time), at the Collector's Office at 909 Davis St, or at any of the community centers that sell passes. A current rabies certificate is required to purchase a pet license.***

Additional pet license Information can be found at: www.cityofevanston.org/pet

Purchasing your Pass

Bring your complete dog beach application to one of the following locations:

Community Centers: You can purchase your pass in person on weekdays from 9 am-4:30 pm at Levy Senior Center, Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center, Prieto Community Center, and Chandler-Newberger Community Center or from 8:30 am-8:30 pm daily at Robert Crown Community Center. Remember to get your pet license before you apply for your Evanston Dog Beach pass.

Dempster Street Beach Office: You can also purchase your pass by going to the Dempster St. Beach Office at 1251 Lake Shore Blvd, open from May 10 through Labor Day, hours vary. Remember: get your pet license before you apply for your Evanston Dog Beach pass.

Accessing the Beach

A coded gate lock will limit access to the beach to Evanston Dog Beach pass holders only. The code to the gate will be printed on the back of your Evanston Dog Beach pass. You must enter the code to unlock the gate when entering and exiting the beach. **DO NOT SHARE THE GATE CODE WITH ANYONE.**



Parking

Metered parking for the Dog Beach is available along Sheridan Road. Accessible parking spaces are located near the entrance to Clark St Beach. Dog Beach visitors are not permitted to park in the permitted areas of the Church Street Boat Launch Parking Lot or the circle drive. Please obey all posted parking restrictions as you will get ticketed. Metered parking is free for Evanston residents who have paid the city wheel tax. For parking fees and additional information, visit the city's website at: www.cityofevanston.org/residents/parking/parking-meters.

While at the dog beach, users must wear/display their dog beach pass on their persons at all times.

Lanyards will be provided with your pass for this purpose. During the summer season, staff may be stationed at the Evanston Dog Beach entrance to check your pass(es), record pass number(s), and monitor the beach. Periodically, lakefront staff may walk the dog beach to check for passes. Please comply with staff. If you do not have your pass on you, you may be refused entry or be asked to leave the beach.

City of Evanston Dog Beach Rules and Regulations

Evanston Dog Beach rules must be observed and followed by all users. Rules are communicated in writing below. The sign at the park entrance will also highlight rules and regulations.

1. An area south of the Clark Street breakwater and north of the Church Street boat ramp, and the adjacent sandy area are hereby designated as a dog beach. Dogs may enter the water only within the designated area.
2. The Evanston Dog Beach will open on March 1, weather permitting and will remain open until inclement weather prohibits staff to safely maintain access. Once closed, the Evanston Dog Beach shall remain closed through March 1 or when weather permits reopening.
3. The Evanston Dog Beach hours are 6 A.M. to 11 P.M., weather permitting. The beach is subject to closure due to high bacteria counts, lightning, or other dangerous weather/lake conditions and lakefront special events. The City Manager or their designee may open or close the Evanston Dog Beach pursuant to subsection 7-11-4(C) of the City Code.
4. Annual passes are valid March 1 through the end of the season closure date.
5. All dogs must have a season pass to be on the beach.
6. Evanston Dog Beach passes are non-transferable. Valid pass holders are prohibited from lending, sharing, or supplying passes and/or gate codes to unauthorized persons. Anyone caught allowing a non-permitted holder/dog access to the Evanston Dog Beach will have their pass revoked.
7. Owners/handlers must display their dog's season pass at all times while using the Evanston Dog Beach and show their pass to the attendant when entering and exiting the beach. Staff reserves the right to inspect dog passes or refuse entry if a pass can not be produced. Photos of a dog beach pass is not an acceptable replacement.
8. Owners/handlers will be responsible for closing all gates as they enter and exit the Evanston Dog Beach.

9. Dogs may be released from their leashes only when they enter the fenced area designated as the Evanston Dog Beach.
10. Dog owners/handlers are required to pick up dog feces and dispose of it in the waste receptacles located near the beach.
11. Owners/handlers/guests with dogs may enter the water to their knees and no further.
12. Owners must fill any holes dug by their dog(s) immediately.
13. No more than two (2) dogs per person will be allowed on any one visit.
14. Dogs, owners, and handlers shall not climb, stand, sit on rocks or the breakwall.
15. Dog owners/handlers must be at least 14 years old.
16. Owners/handlers must be in voice control of their dog(s), have visual contact with their dog(s), keep their dog's leash with them, and be present on the beach with their dog(s) at all times.
17. Owners/handlers are liable for any damage or injury that occurs as a result of their dog(s) to another dog(s), person, or beach property. This means owners are legally and financially responsible for their dog's behavior. The City of Evanston has NO liability or responsibility for injuries that may occur on the Evanston Dog Beach.
18. Dogs who exhibit aggressive behavior may lose access privileges to the Evanston Dog Beach.
19. Cook County Animal & Rabies Control Ordinance requires that all dogs using the Evanston Dog Beach in off-leash areas have current vaccinations or titers (antibodies) for Rabies, Distemper (CFV), Hepatitis (Canine Adenovirus-2), Para-influenza (CPIV), Parvovirus (CPV), Leptospirosis, Bordetella (kennel cough), and a negative fecal test by a veterinarian's office for internal parasites, within the last year. Written proof is required before an Evanston Dog Beach pass is issued by the City of Evanston.
20. Dogs that are ill are not allowed on the Evanston Dog Beach.
21. Female dogs in heat are not allowed on the Evanston Dog Beach. All dogs 12 months and older must be spayed or neutered.
22. Puppies under 4 months of age are not allowed on the Evanston Dog Beach.
23. All pinch, choke, spike, and electronic collars must be removed from dogs prior to entering the dog park. No leashes over six feet (6') in length allowed.
24. By city ordinance, alcohol is not allowed in any City park; this includes the Evanston Dog Beach.
25. Human food, glass containers, and rawhide chews are prohibited on the Evanston Dog Beach.
26. Sunbathing is prohibited on the Evanston Dog Beach. No chairs, beach towels, or blankets are allowed on the Evanston Dog Beach.
27. Persons who are visually impaired and other domesticated animals specially trained to assist persons with disabilities are excluded from the prohibitions of this section when they are accompanying persons with disabilities for purposes of providing such assistance.
28. Dogs found on the Evanston Dog Beach without a valid Evanston Dog Beach pass must leave immediately.

Evanston Dog Beach Winter Rules



The City is dedicated to ensuring the continued availability of the Dog Beach throughout the winter season. However, everyone must be aware of and adhere to the regulations in place during this time. The use of the Dog Beach is at your own risk and should be used with extra caution during the winter months. Your commitment to following the winter rules outlined for the Evanston Dog Beach will contribute to the well-being of our community. As a reminder, dogs are not allowed on any other beach, basketball court, or tennis courts. All dogs must be leashed while in City parks. As an additional option, passes may be purchased for the use of [Pooch Park](#) in Skokie.

Snow/Ice

Snowfall poses potential risks to the safety of our community members and their dogs. Accumulating snow and subsequent icy conditions may create hazardous situations at the Dog Beach, leading to slips, falls, and potential injuries for both pets and their owners. Please exercise caution.

Salt

To maintain the environmental integrity of Lake Michigan, it is imperative that no salt be used in or around the Dog Beach area. The City of Evanston, along with other municipalities along the lake, are working together to keep chloride (an element in salt) out of Lake Michigan. This measure includes NOT using “pet friendly” or chloride free ice melts. No City staff member will salt the sidewalks of the Dog Beach. If any type of salt or deicing material is applied by a Dog Beach user, the City will close the Dog Beach for the remainder of winter. Salt can introduce pollutants into the lake and the surrounding dune areas. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us protect this valuable natural resource.

Gate and Fence

Please be aware that the gate combination lock may be susceptible to damage in extreme cold and wet weather conditions and may be susceptible to freezing. Within reason, City staff will continue to maintain the gate and combination lock. Repetitive malfunctions and damage may result in closure of the Dog Beach. Your vigilance is crucial in ensuring the security and accessibility of the Dog Beach throughout the winter. Please do not use any force to open the gate and report any issues promptly to 311 by calling/texting 847-448-4311.

Ice Shelf

For your safety, please keep off the ice shelf. Walking or playing on the ice can be hazardous and pose risks to individuals and their pets.

Dog Waste Removal

As a part of winter preparation, the orange dog waste buckets will be removed by Friday, Dec. 15. This measure is taken to prevent potential hazards during winter storms and to avoid the risk of the buckets being swept into Lake Michigan by winds and high waves. The waste containers on the wooden posts at the north and south entrances will remain available for public use. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Closures and Communications

The City reserves the right to close the Dog Beach at any time to ensure the well-being of all community members and their dogs. The decision to close the beach may be made in response to various factors, including weather conditions, safety concerns, and compliance with established rules. In the event of a closure, an email will be sent to Dog Beach email subscribers and a sign will be posted at the Dog Beach entrance.

Dog Owner Risk and Responsibility

All dog owners and guests should be aware of the following risks and responsibilities before entering the Evanston Dog Beach:

- A dog's behavior or actions, no matter how well trained, if startled or frightened, can be unpredictable and potentially life-threatening. Even a well-trained dog may attack a patron, another dog, park wildlife or a curious child without provocation or notice. Other risks include a dog's natural reactions, such as jumping, pulling, resisting and biting, and the negligence or irresponsibility of a dog's owner/handler.
- Dog owners/handlers are SOLELY responsible for supervising their dog(s) and determining whether or not activities associated with the Evanston Dog Beach are appropriate for his/her dog's participation. Dog owners must understand they participate in Evanston Dog Beach activities at their own risk and the risk of their dog(s).
- Dogs and dog owners/handlers of varying degrees of skill and experience use the Evanston Dog Beach.
- Dog owners are solely responsible for determining whether they or their dog(s) are physically fit and/or adequately skilled to use the Evanston Dog Beach.
- It is always advisable, especially if you or your dog is pregnant, disabled in any way, or recently suffered from an illness, injury or impairment, to consult a physician or veterinarian before using the Evanston Dog Beach.
- Other risks include hazards associated with the environment (water quality, waves, etc.), traffic conditions, acts of God, inclement weather, falling, premises defects, failure in supervision and all other circumstances inherent to dog and outdoor activities apply when using the Dog Beach.
- Attempting to break up a fight between dogs can be dangerous and may result in you being attacked by the dogs or assaulted by the owner(s). **Therefore, City of Evanston employees WILL NOT break up fights.** That will be the responsibility of the dog owners/handlers.
- It must be recognized that it is impossible for the City of Evanston to guarantee absolute safety.

Anti-Discrimination Clause

The undersigned hereby submits assurance that any individual attending the City of Evanston Parks & Recreation Department program, activity, or rental space for which this agreement/contract is in place will not discriminate or deny equal access to service and treatment to any individual regardless of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status, housing status, disability, gender identity, or gender expression.

Warning of Risk



Dog activities are intended to provide a fun and rewarding experience for a dog and its owner. However, despite careful and proper preparation, instruction, medical advice, conditioning and equipment, there is still a risk of serious injury, including death to either the dog or its owner. Dogs are pack animals and when “off leash,” even the best-trained dogs will act instinctively. Understandably, not all hazards and dangers associated with dog activities can be foreseen. Certain inherent risks include the propensity of any dog to behave in dangerous ways that may result in injury to another patron or dog. Other risks include, but are not limited to, the inexperience, negligence or irresponsibility of a dog owner; the inability to predict a dog’s reaction to sound, movements, objects, persons, or other animals; and actions by the dog due to fright, anger, stress, insect bites, or natural reactions such as jumping, pulling, resisting and biting. Other risks include the hazards associated with environmental and traffic conditions, acts of God, inclement weather, slipping, falling, premises defects, failure in instruction/supervision, and all other circumstances inherent to dog and outdoor activities. Should you attempt to break up a fight between dogs, you may be attacked and severely mauled by the other dog or attacked by the other patron. In this regard, it must be recognized that it is impossible for the City of Evanston to guarantee absolute safety. **All dog owners, guests and dogs enter the Evanston Dog Beach at their own risk.**

Evanston Dog Beach - Aggressive Dog Policy Statement

What is aggressive behavior?

- Aggressive behavior is difficult to define, taking into consideration all the different breeds of dogs using the Evanston Dog Beach, what an owner may perceive as aggressive behavior, and the varying ability of dog owners to control their dogs. What may be aggressive to one owner may be seen as just rough play by another. Some breeds have been dubbed as aggressive based solely on their breed, while some breeds are regarded as docile. However, all dogs/breeds may become aggressive in certain situations.
- If your dog is showing aggressive tendencies, please use common sense, leash him/her immediately and exit the beach for that day.

What happens if my dog is attacked by another dog?

- The dog owners involved in any aggressive behavior MUST be able to communicate in a civil manner with each other. You should exchange contact information and, if you or your dog were in the wrong, accept responsibility.
- If the dispute cannot be settled civilly, then the Evanston Police Department needs to be called and a report filed. The City of Evanston does have a dangerous dog ordinance (9-4-17).

Who is responsible for medical damages if a dog, guest or owner is hurt by another dog or owner?

- The City of Evanston is not responsible for any damages resulting from injuries from a dog or owner. This is a matter that must be handled between you and the other party. If needed, you should call the Evanston Police and file a formal complaint.

- The Parks and Recreation Department will not provide personal information regarding another dog owner without a request of law enforcement.

The Evanston Dog Beach is a large and often crowded OFF LEASH area and for it to work:

1. Each individual dog owner MUST be responsible for supervising their dog(s) at all times.
2. Each individual dog owner MUST take responsibility for the actions of their dog(s).
3. Each individual dog owner MUST be able to control their dog(s).
4. If you do not have excellent control of your dog, maybe the Evanston Dog Beach is not the place to take him/her.
5. Cooperation between dog owners is ESSENTIAL to ensure the safety and enjoyment of everyone.
6. Please be responsible and respect all other dog owners. The City of Evanston CANNOT legislate responsible behavior. This is up to you, the individual dog owner.
7. All Evanston Dog Beach pass holders are responsible for the Evanston Dog Beach and must partially self-police the beach and help keep it trouble-free.

The City of Evanston Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank you for your consideration in the patronage of the Evanston Dog Beach. We know that this is a lot of information to digest but please understand that every policy in this packet is designed to ensure the best possible experience for all of the dog(s) and their owners that utilize the beach, while at the same time minimize the risk and liability of the city. We have a diverse group of dogs and their owners. Since everyone's needs vary, we consider all of them determining policies. We pride ourselves in providing a safe, well-maintained facility, and with your assistance and input we hope to continue to operate this facility for years to come.

For more information, please contact 847-448-4311 or visit our website at cityofevanston.org/dogbeach