



2026

Evanston Dog Beach and Grey Park Dog Park Information Packet and Application

Overview

The Evanston Dog Beach (EDB), located just south of Clark St Beach at 1811 Sheridan Rd, is Evanston's only off-leash dog beach. The Grey Park Dog Park, located at 1051 Main St, is Evanston's only off-leash dog park. Both locations are managed by the City of Evanston Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department and require a season pass for entry.

Hours

The Evanston Dog Beach and Grey Park Dog Park are open 6 A.M. to 11 P.M beginning March 1 through February 28 of the following year, or up until the first winter weather event that prevents safe access. *Due to construction, the opening of Grey Park Dog Park will be delayed.* Season passes will give you access to Grey Park Dog Park and the Evanston Dog Beach.

Grey Park Dog Park Maintenance Hours - Tuesday OR Thursday from 10:00 am to 11:30 am

The dog park will be closed weekly during these hours for mowing and regular maintenance.

Pass Fees

Passes available starting: February 16, 2026

Evanston residents (60201 & 60202): FREE (\$0)

Non-residents:

- \$200 for first dog
- \$75 for second dog

Replacement pass fee: \$10

50% discount begins: August 1

Before Purchasing a Dog Beach/Grey Park Dog Park Pass

Use of the Evanston Dog Beach and Grey Park Dog Park is governed by City of Evanston policies and Cook County Animal & Rabies Control Ordinances. All requirements must be met before a pass can be issued.

Required Vaccinations, Tests & Licensing

Per Cook County ordinance, all dogs using off-leash areas must have current vaccinations for:

- Rabies
- Distemper (CFV)
- Hepatitis (Canine Adenovirus-2)
- Parainfluenza (CPIV)
- Parvovirus (CPV)
- Leptospirosis
- Bordetella (kennel cough)

Additional requirements:

- Proof of a negative fecal test for internal parasites from a veterinarian within the past year
- Proof that the dog is licensed by the local government where the owner resides.

The City of Evanston is required to verify all vaccination and testing documentation before issuing a pass and cannot waive Cook County requirements. Dogs that are unable to receive required vaccinations or tests for medical reasons must apply for an exemption directly through the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control.

Documentation Required to Purchase a Pass

All applicants must:

1. Provide Proof of Vaccinations & Tests

Your veterinarian must complete and sign the verification form on the back of the Dog Beach Pass application. This form is required — no other documentation will be accepted.

2. Provide Proof of Pet License

- **Evanston residents (60201 & 60202):** Must have a current Evanston pet license and provide proof of that license. A receipt alone is not acceptable.
- **Non-residents:** Must provide proof that the dog is licensed by the local government where the owner resides by submitting a copy of the license or license application receipt. If your municipality does not require pet licenses, you must provide a letter from that local government confirming this.

3. Sign the Liability Waiver

- All residents and non-residents must sign the liability waiver included on the Dog Beach/Park 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 2026 pet license, 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 Season Pass

Bring your completed application and all required documentation to one of the following locations:

Community Centers

Weekdays, 9:00 am–4:30 pm:

- Levy Senior Center
- Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center
- Prieto Community Center
- Ecology Center
- Chandler-Newberger Community Center

Daily:

- Robert Crown Community Center (8:30 am–8:30 pm)
- Dempster St Beach Office starting May 9 (11 am-6 pm)

Accessing the Beach or Park

A coded gate lock will limit access to the beach and park to pass holders only. The gate code will be printed on the back of your pass. You must enter the code to unlock the gate when entering and exiting. **DO NOT SHARE THE GATE CODE WITH ANYONE.** If you have difficulty opening the gate, press the handle down all the way to clear the code, and press each number firmly.

Parking at the Evanston Dog Beach

Metered street parking is available along Sheridan Road. Metered parking is free for Evanston residents who have paid the City wheel tax. Accessible parking spaces are located near the entrance to Clark Street Beach.

Dog Beach visitors **may not park** in:

- Permitted areas of the Church Street Boat Launch Parking Lot

- The circle drive at Clark St Beach

Please obey all posted parking regulations. Vehicles parked illegally may be ticketed. Parking details and fees can be found at: www.cityofevanston.org/residents/parking/parking-meters.

Parking at Grey Park Dog Park

Street parking is available along Main St, Maple Ave, and other side streets in the area. Designated accessible parking spaces are not available at this location at this time. Please obey all posted parking restrictions. For parking fees and additional information, visit the city's website at www.cityofevanston.org/residents/parking/parking-meters.

Pass Display

All users must wear or visibly display their Dog Beach/Dog Park pass at all times while on the beach or at the park. Lanyards are provided for this purpose.

During the summer season:

- Staff may be stationed at the entrance to check passes and monitor beach use
- City staff may periodically walk through the beach or park to verify passes

Failure to display a valid pass may result in denied entry or removal from the park/beach. Please comply with all staff requests.

Rules and Regulations

Rules must be observed and followed by all users of the Evanston Dog Beach and Grey Park Dog Park. Rules are communicated in writing below. Signs at park entrances will also highlight rules and regulations.

1. Both areas are designated off-leash areas within fenced boundaries. Dogs may be released from their leashes only upon entering the fenced area.
2. Both areas are open daily, weather permitting, from 6:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. The City Manager or their designee may open or close the facilities due to weather, safety, or operational concerns.
3. All dogs must have a valid season pass. Dogs without a valid pass will be asked to leave immediately.
4. Annual passes are valid March 1 through Feb 28 of the following year or until the first winter weather event requiring park closure.
5. Passes are non-transferable. Lending, sharing, or supplying passes or gate codes to unauthorized persons is prohibited and may result in pass revocation.
6. Owners/handlers must display their dog's season pass at all times. Staff may inspect passes or refuse entry if a valid pass cannot be produced. Photos of passes are not acceptable.
7. Owners/handlers are responsible for closing all gates when entering and exiting.
8. Owners/handlers must pick up dog feces and dispose of it in the provided waste receptacles.
9. No more than two (2) dogs per person per visit.
10. Owners/handlers must be at least 14 years old.
11. Owners must fill in any holes dug by their dog(s) immediately.

12. Owners/handlers must maintain voice control and visual contact, keep a leash with them, and remain present with their dog(s) at all times.
13. Owners/handlers are legally and financially responsible for any damage or injury caused by their dog(s).
14. Dogs exhibiting aggressive behavior may lose access privileges.
15. All dogs must comply with Cook County Animal & Rabies Control Ordinance vaccination and health requirements, including current vaccinations/titers and a negative fecal test within the last year. Written proof is required before a pass is issued.
16. Dogs that are ill are not permitted.
17. Female dogs in heat are not permitted. All dogs 12 months and older must be spayed or neutered.
18. Puppies under 4 months of age are not permitted.
19. All pinch, choke, spike, and e-collars must be removed from dogs before entering facilities. Leashes over six feet (6') in length are not allowed.
20. Alcohol is prohibited in all City parks, per city ordinance.
21. Human food, glass containers, and rawhide chews are prohibited.
22. Individuals may bring their own chairs, but chairs must be removed after each use. Staff may remove chairs.
23. Persons who are visually impaired and animals specially trained to assist persons with disabilities are exempt when accompanying a person with a disability.
24. The City of Evanston assumes no liability for injuries occurring at the Dog Beach or Dog Park.

Evanston Dog Beach Specific Rules

1. The Dog Beach is located south of the Clark Street breakwater and north of the Church Street boat ramp, including the adjacent sandy area.
2. Dogs may enter the water only within the designated area.
3. The Evanston Dog Beach opens March 1, weather permitting, and remains open until inclement weather prevents safe access. Once closed for the season, the beach may remain closed until March 1 or until conditions permit reopening.
4. The beach is subject to closure due to high bacteria counts, lightning, or other dangerous weather/lake conditions, and lakefront special events.
5. Owners/handlers must show their pass to the attendant when entering and exiting the beach.
6. Owners/handlers/guests may enter the water only up to their knees. Dogs, owners, and handlers may not climb, stand, or sit on rocks or the breakwall.
7. Sunbathing is prohibited. Beach towels and blankets are not allowed.

Winter Rules

The City is dedicated to ensuring the continued availability of the Dog Beach and the Dog Park throughout the winter season. However, everyone must be aware of and adhere to the regulations in place during this time. Use of the Dog Beach and Dog Park is at your own risk and should be used with extra caution during the winter months. Your commitment to following the winter rules outlined 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 or Dog Park, 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, no salt will be used in or around the Dog Beach area. The City of Evanston, along with other municipalities along the lake, is 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. Additionally, salt will not be used at the Grey Park Dog Park.

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 or Dog Park. Your vigilance is crucial in ensuring the security and accessibility of the Dog Beach or 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 at the Dog Beach

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 at the Dog Beach 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 at the Dog Beach. Waste receptacles at the dog park will remain in place during the winter.

Closures and Communications

The City reserves the right to close the Dog Beach or Dog Park at any time to ensure the well-being of all community members and their dogs. The decision to close 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 & Dog Park email subscribers, and a sign will be posted at the entrance.

Rule and Ordinance Enforcement

Rule and ordinance enforcement is handled by the Evanston Police Department. Please report emergencies or violations of beach or park rules and ordinances by dialing 911 or contacting the non-emergency police desk at 847-866-5000, so that an animal warden, police officer, or—depending on the circumstances—a CARE Team responder may be dispatched.

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 or Dog Park:

- 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 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/Park are appropriate for his/her dog’s participation. Dog owners must understand they participate in Evanston Dog Beach/Park 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/Park.
- 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/Park.
- 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/Park.
- 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/Park.
- 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 the City of Evanston cannot guarantee absolute safety.

All dog owners, guests, and dogs enter the Evanston Dog Beach at their own risk.

Evanston Dog/Park 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/Park, 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 its 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 from law enforcement.

The Evanston Dog Beach and Grey Park Dog Park are large and often crowded OFF-LEASH areas, 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, the Evanston Dog Beach and Grey Park Dog Park may not be the best place to bring your dog.
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/Dog Park pass holders are responsible for the park/facilities and must partially self-police the beach/park 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/Park. 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 or dog park, while at the same time minimizing 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 when determining policies. We pride ourselves on 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