

Over the past few years dog parks have become increasingly popular with pet owners. Tigard area residents are fortunate to have access to several of these parks maintained by the City of Tigard. Now that good weather has finally arrived we are already seeing a high number of visitors enjoying our dog parks. But with privilege also comes responsibility. To that end, dog park rules are posted at the entrance to each park. These rules were set up to help ensure the enjoyment, safety, comfort and convenience of pets and their owners who visit.

Unfortunately, the City of Tigard has fielded a number of complaints recently regarding negligent owner behavior. We would ask that all of our visitors pay close attention to the posted rules. There are several areas of concern that have been noted.

- ◆ Please pick up after your dog. Refuse bags and garbage containers have been provided. Besides being a health issue, no one wants to pick up after someone else's dog.
- ◆ We strongly discourage bringing food into the park. This will always attract unwanted dog behavior.
- ◆ Smoking is prohibited in all dog parks. Cigarette butts are very dangerous to dogs, and even one butt can be fatal to a small dog.
- ◆ Please do not allow your dog to dig. We have had some instances of owners and pets being injured after stepping in holes. A running dog chasing after a ball could easily break a leg.
- ◆ An owner must be present in the park with their dog. It is your responsibility to keep an eye on your dog at all times.
- ◆ Children must be accompanied by an adult. These are dog parks, not children's play areas. We ask that you keep your children from running in the parks, especially young children, because it invites dogs to chase and jump.
- ◆ We know dogs bark. However, Washington County Ordinance does state that if a dog barks for more than 5 minutes in a 15 minutes period it is considered a nuisance. Barking dogs in parks in residential areas are of particular concern.

We all need to treat our dog parks with respect. We need your help to educate negligent or uninformed visitors about park rules. As always, we discourage confrontation, but a gentle reminder may be in order if you see a violation of park rules.

Thank you all for your assistance and participation in keeping our dog parks a fun, safe, and welcoming place for all.