



## DOG PARK RULES

### I. PURPOSE

These guidelines aim to create a safe and enjoyable dog park experience for the community and to reduce the frequency and severity of injuries associated with the design, construction, and operation of dog parks.

### II. OPERATION

1. All City of San Marcos designated dog parks are to be used only by dog owners, their dogs, and guests. All other activities are prohibited.
2. "Owner" includes guardian, handler, custodian, or other person responsible for the dog.
3. City will enforce all municipal code requirements of section 9.04.50 and Chapter 6.24 of the SMMC. Key elements of these code sections include:
  - No dogs on organized sports fields.
  - Keep dogs on leash at all times, except when in a designated dog park area.
  - Owners are responsible for picking up after their dog and disposing of the feces in designated areas.
4. City Staff will conduct regular maintenance inspections of all dog parks and document the findings in a work order management database. Key functions of inspections and maintenance include:
  - Visual inspection of park to confirm all amenities are functional and operating safely.
  - Repairs will be completed in a timely fashion.
  - Affected portions of the park will be closed as necessary until appropriate warning signs are installed or repairs are completed.
  - Records will be maintained according to the COSM retention policy.
5. Dog waste, excessive leaves, and trash will be removed on a regular basis.



6. Admission will not be charged.
7. The activities at all municipal Parks and recreational facilities shall be under the control of the Director, subject to the supervision of the City Manager, City Council, and Parks and Recreation Commission.
8. General park signage will include contact information for any persons to report specific issues or concerns as necessary.
9. Specific signage will be included at any park with a dog park amenity and will include a reference to this document where all applicable rules can be found. Comprehensive dog park rules include the following:
  - Only owners, their dogs, and guests are permitted. Children under 14 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible guardian, who is at least 18 years of age, and must be supervised by that person at all times. Children under 6 years of age must be within arm's reach of a responsible guardian at all times.
  - Dogs must never be left unattended.
  - Use at your own risk, including but not limited to risk of bites, being knocked down, slipping, tripping, falling, and infectious diseases.
  - City of San Marcos is not responsible for injuries or illnesses to owners, guests, or dogs.
  - City of San Marcos reserves the right to eject anyone from the park at any time for any reason.
  - All dogs must be fully vaccinated according to their age. Unvaccinated dogs are prohibited.
  - Dogs must be leashed while entering and exiting the park. Dogs may only be unleashed once inside the park and only when it is safe to do so.
  - Use of the park shall be limited to off-leash dog exercise and socialization only.
  - Dogs are prohibited in the area not designated for their size.
  - All dogs must wear a collar with their current license or registration tag.
  - Unregistered dogs are prohibited.
  - All dogs must be spayed or neutered. Exception: service dogs under applicable law.
  - Prohibited dogs include the following:
    - In heat
    - Unruly
    - Unusually noisy
    - Previously adjudicated, or known, to be dangerous, aggressive, or threatening
    - Previously bitten or injured a person or another animal
  - Alcohol or drug use is prohibited.
  - Glass containers and consuming food are prohibited.
  - Owners must clean up after their dog(s).



- Owners must stop their dog(s) from digging. Any holes created must be filled by the owner.
- Special events or contests are not allowed without written authorization from the City of San Marcos.
- Furniture or equipment not supplied by the City of San Marcos is prohibited and will be removed and disposed of without compensation or notice. Violations will be investigated. The potential penalty is revocation of privilege.
- Failure to follow the rules will subject persons to citation (SMMC 9.04 & 6.04).
- Use of park is prohibited during any rain event or other episode of inclement or dangerous weather.
- Park hours can be found on the entry park sign at each park.

### III. RESOURCES

1. Government Code Section 831.7.5.
2. CA Dept Parks & Rec: Visiting State Parks with Dogs
3. Public Resources Code Section 5008.1.

*UPDATED: OCTOBER 2023*