

## **Rules & Regulations of a DFA**

- ❖ Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries caused by their dogs.
- ❖ Owners must remain with and watch their dogs at all times.
- ❖ Dogs must be leashed prior to and upon leaving the DFA. Gates to the DFAs must remain closed except upon entering and exiting the DFA.
- ❖ Owners must immediately clean up after their dogs. Owners who fail to clean up after their dogs are subject to a fine of up to \$500.00 (City of Chicago Ordinance 7-12-420).
- ❖ Dogs with a known history of, or who exhibit, dangerous behavior are prohibited.
- ❖ Dogs must be healthy, fully immunized, dewormed, licensed and comply with the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control Regulation for Chicago Park District DFAs.
- ❖ No dog will be allowed in a DFA unless it has a current rabies vaccination.
- ❖ Dog owners are responsible for the monitoring and maintenance of the DFA.
- ❖ Owners or other responsible persons must have a DFA permit with them for each dog visiting the DFA. Visit <http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/departments.board.cfm> for more details and a complete list of participating veterinarians.

- ❖ Each dog visiting a DFA must display a current Chicago Park District DFA tag.
- ❖ DFA permits expire on December 31 of the year that it is issued.
- ❖ Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult; younger children must be closely supervised.
- ❖ Only three dogs per person allowed.
- ❖ Puppies under four months old and female dogs in heat are prohibited.
- ❖ Failure to comply with the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control Regulation for Chicago Park District DFAs can result in a fine of up to \$500.00.

### **Chicago Park District Dog Friendly Locations**

1. Wiggly Field—2645 N. Sheffield
2. Walsh Park—1722 N. Ashland
3. Wicker Park—1425 N. Damen
4. Hamlin Park—3035 N. Damen
5. Margate Park—4921 N. Marine Dr.
6. Coliseum Park—14<sup>th</sup> & Wabash
7. Churchill Park—1825 N. Damen
8. Challenger Park—1101 W. Irving Park Rd.
9. Montrose Beach—Wilson Street & the Lake
10. Grant Park—Columbus Drive & 9<sup>th</sup> Street (to be constructed in 2006)
11. River Park – 5100 N. Francisco Ave.

# CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

## DOG FRIENDLY AREAS



Chicago Park District and City of Chicago Ordinances require dogs to be on leashes in public areas for the protection of fellow residents, as well as for the dogs themselves. To offer the numerous dogs in the City some room to move, Mayor Richard M. Daley and the Chicago Park District have supported the creation of several Dog Friendly Areas (DFAs) to provide safe places for dogs to exercise, play and socialize legally "off-leash."

### **Permits**

The Administrator of Cook County's Department of Animal And Rabies Control has required that the Park District issue permits for all off-leash dogs using Dog Friendly Areas. The following is a summary of the Park District's permit plan.

### **What Is Required**

The owner or other responsible person bringing any dog into a DFA must have a permit and tag issued by a participating Veterinarian for each dog.

The Veterinarian will issue a permit for any dog when the dog's owner or other person responsible for the dog shows the following:

1. The owner or other responsible person produces a current dog license issued by the City of Chicago, or proof that the dog has a current rabies vaccination.
2. The owner must complete a Chicago Park District Dog Friendly Area Permit Application for each dog. The owner shall provide written proof acceptable to the Park District showing that a licensed veterinarian (or other authorized person) has performed a fecal test for parasites and vaccinated any dog entering a DFA for the following diseases:
  - a. Distemper
  - b. Hepatitis
  - c. Para influenza; and
  - d. Parvovirus
  - e. Bordetella(Current titers where applicable will also be acceptable)

After issuance of a permit, the dog owner is responsible for keeping immunizations a thru e above current.

3. The owner must agree to abide by the Chicago Park District Rules and Regulations of a Dog Friendly Area.

### **Where To Get A Permit In Chicago**

Dog Friendly Area Permit Applications are available at participating veterinarian offices. A list of the participating veterinarians can be found on the Chicago Park District website at [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com)

### **Fees (Annual)**

The annual fee is \$ 5.00 for each dog. The permit is valid for one year from January 1 through December 31.

### **Enforcement.**

The Administrator of the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control will have primary enforcement authority. Violators may face fines up to \$500 per offense.

For more information call the office of the Administrator of the Cook County Department of Animal & Rabies Control at (708) 974-6140.

### **Responsibilities of Owner/Community**

There are certain responsibilities an owner/community must meet:

*Maintenance:* The community must assist in the maintenance of the DFA. It is the responsibility of the users of the DFA to clean up after their pets. Cleaning includes rotating, bleaching and replacing any pea gravel areas; washing down the hard surfaced area regularly; and on a daily basis, cleaning up any waste that users may have missed. The regular users of the DFA should inform new users of the DFA rules and regulations as well as of the importance of maintenance. The dog owner group should provide the Chicago Park District with a monthly cleaning schedule. The dog owner group should also sign a letter stating their agreement for the upkeep of the DFA.

*Monitoring the DFA:* The community or users of the DFA should assist in monitoring the DFA. The dog owner group members should encourage the enforcement of the leash laws outside of the DFA, should monitor the behavior of the dogs and dog owners using the DFA and should assist in the education of new users.

*Management:* The dog owner group should notify the Chicago Park District if

problems occur with the operation of the DFA or with its patrons.

*Clean-Ups:* Hold semi-annual entire park clean-ups in conjunction with the Friends of the Parks, Earth Day and Clean and Green celebrations.

Failure to meet responsibilities, both operational and financial, may result in reconvertng the parkland to its original use.

Each year the Chicago Park District will return to neighborhood association meetings to discuss the success or failure of the DFA. The Chicago Park District will take appropriate action once that determination is made.