

Dog Park Tips & Etiquette (Continued)

- Be sure to securely latch all gates when entering and leaving the dog park. Upon arrival, do not remove the leash until you are within the double-gated area with both gates closed.
- Dogs in the park are always curious of newly arriving dogs. Please try to keep your dog from crowding the gate area. Hold your dog until the newcomer is safely inside and then "let the sniffing begin"!
- Children need to be supervised closely - no running, chasing dogs, yelling or screaming. Children under the age of 10 years are prohibited. Children must not pet other dogs without owner's permission.
- Please be considerate of non-doggie park users. While outside of the fenced area, keep your leashed dog away from other park patrons. Unwanted interactions could have an adverse effect on how we operate the dog park.
- Dogs can be possessive of toys. We recommend that you do not bring toys to the dog park.
- Do not bring your dog to the park if he is sick, has intestinal parasites or external parasites such as fleas and ticks.

NOTE: *Occasionally, Turkey Hill Park can get very busy with athletic events. To make your visit more enjoyable, we recommend avoiding these hours. Check posted schedule.*

Charles County Parks & Grounds
1001 Radio Station Road
La Plata, Maryland 20646

TAKE "PAWS" AND VISIT A CHARLES COUNTY DOG PARK

TURKEY HILL DOG PARK

9430 Turkey Hill Road
La Plata, Maryland 20646



OFF-LEASH EXERCISE AREA

301-932-3470

Charles County
Department of Public Works
Division of Parks & Grounds

www.charlescountyparks.com

Welcome to Turkey Hill Dog Park

Turkey Hill Dog Park is a public off-leash area operated and maintained by Charles County Government's Department of Public Facilities. We invite County dog owners and their pets to enjoy this unique facility. Our Dog Park provides a safe, legal area in which dogs can run, play and socialize. Our dog owners seem to enjoy the park just as much as their four-legged friends!

Our Dog Park is located at Turkey Hill Park, located directly off of Turkey Hill Road just north of La Plata. The off-leash area is just off the entrance on the left with ample parking. With the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, the Dog Park is open daily from 8:00 a.m. until dusk. Occasionally, the park may be closed during (and after) periods of inclement weather.

This park has two separate fenced-in areas. The large area is designed for general dog play. The smaller area is for smaller dogs, puppies (must be at least 4 months old) or for shy dogs not quite ready to socialize in the larger general play area.

Water is not available on site. Owners are encouraged to bring water. No glass containers.



Dog Park Rules

(See Posting at Park for total Rule List)

- ✿ Owners are legally responsible for their dog's behavior. Owners must be inside the fenced area at all times with leash in hand. Dogs showing any sign of aggression must be removed immediately from park.
- ✿ **All male dogs entering the Dog Park must be neutered.**
- ✿ Charles County is not responsible for injuries to dogs or their owners. Use park at your own risk.
- ✿ Owners must immediately clean-up after their dogs.
- ✿ Dogs in heat and puppies under four (4) months old prohibited.
- ✿ Children under the age of 10 years may not enter fenced area. All children who enter the dog park must be accompanied by an adult who is accountable for their behavior.
- ✿ No more than two (2) dogs per owner allowed.
- ✿ Dogs must be collared and wearing up-to-date rabies vaccinations.
- ✿ Professional dog trainers may not use this facility to conduct their business.
- ✿ Outside of the fenced area, dogs must always be on a leash.
- ✿ **Pit bull terriers are NOT ALLOWED in Park.**
- ✿ No smoking or tobacco use in Dog Park.
- ✿ Enjoy yourself!

Dog Park Tips & Etiquette

- Please familiarize yourself with the complete set of rules posted at the park.
- If your dog poops - you scoop (immediately). Poop bags provided at the park. Several trash cans are available within the fenced area. Keep this area nice for everyone!
- Some dogs can be a little nervous about their first visit. You may consider starting-out in the smaller fenced area. Let him observe the other dogs and get acclimated slowly. If your dog is shy or uneasy, sit on one of our benches so that your dog can hide under it until he feels comfortable to come-out and meet other dogs. Gradual interaction may be best. Avoid using a leash within the fenced area. Leashes seem to increase the potential for fear and protectiveness, possibly because dogs are nervous when they are restricted. Also, if your dog doesn't appear to be having a good time, do not pet your dog to calm him. By doing so, you are actually rewarding the dog for this behavior.
- Dogs will sometimes bark, snarl and even snap at each other. This is part of their normal socialization. Only interfere and stop the interaction if it appears to be escalating into a fight. If your dog does get into a fight, don't try to pick him up (you could get bitten). Loud noise or poured water are effective ways to break up fights.