



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS



Off-Leash Area Permit Application And Informational Guide

\$40 per household (up to 3 dogs)

Valid: January 1 - December 31



To Register, please Call, Click or Come In
410-313-7275 | www.howardcountymd.gov/rap
7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046

WORTHINGTON PARK



Worthington Park is located off New Cut Road at 8170 Hillsborough Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043. The Off-Leash area is open from 7 AM to dusk except for scheduled maintenance. You can call 410-313-4455 for an inclement weather/program status recording.

The 2.7-acre lower area is near the park entrance, has a separate section for smaller, timid or elderly dogs and has ADA-compliant access from the adjacent parking lot. There is also an upper area on the other side of Hillsborough Road. Look for signs telling you which area is being used.

To provide a safe environment for all dogs, the off-leash areas are surrounded by 6-foot high vinyl-clad chain-link fences with double gates. Water is available on-site at the lower area Apr. 15 - Nov. 1. The upper area does not have water.

For your convenience, you'll find Mutt-Mitt dispensers and containers for waste material. Please bring a water container (no glass) for your dog.

Area use is not restricted to Howard County residents. However, all users must purchase an annual or daily permit. (Daily permits available on-site.)

RULES & REGULATIONS

There is a maximum of two dogs per handler in the Off-Leash Area. Dogs must be leashed when not in the Off-Leash Area.

Handlers must...

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Enter the park at their own risk.
- Have proof of rabies shot.
- Remain in the Off-Leash Area with their dogs at all times.
- Maintain sight of and control over their dogs.
- Pick up and properly dispose of their dogs' feces.
- Render first aid if their dogs are injured, and notify other handlers if their dogs inflict injury.
- Speak up if concerned about another dog's behavior.

Not permitted in the Off-Leash Area...

- Glass containers.
- Children less than 12 years old – no exceptions.
- Smoking or eating.
- Dog treats or training treats.
- Aggressive dogs.
- Dogs in their heat cycle.
- Dogs less than four months old.
- Professional training or grooming.
- Animals other than dogs.
- Injured or sick dogs.
- Digging by humans or dogs.

Worthington Dog Park
8170 Hillsborough Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043

*Photos courtesy of Lia Joell (Photographer)/
Maryland Dog Park Community (Facebook).*



PERMIT/LICENSE INFO

This permit is valid January 1-December 31. The fee is not prorated. Make check payable to **Director of Finance, Howard County**. We accept VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. For registration information, call 410-313-7275 or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/rap.

Note: While the permit registers up to three dogs per household, there is a maximum of two dogs per handler in the Off-Leash Area.

To Register or Renew: The registration fee is \$40 per household, up to three dogs.

You may register in-person (8 AM - 4:30 PM) or by mail at the following address:
Howard County Recreation & Parks
7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046.

Include proof (copy) of a valid dog license and current rabies certificate (all renewing applicants must provide copies of a valid dog license and rabies certificate) for each dog being registered with the completed registration form. Howard County pet owners can obtain a dog license at www.myHoward.info when a user account is created. It is your responsibility to maintain a current license and rabies certificate during the permit period. Failure to do so will result in expulsion from the park and suspension of your permit.

Daily Permits: You may purchase a daily permit on-site for \$5 per visit. You must present proof of a valid dog license and current rabies vaccination while at the park using a daily permit.

You may apply up to three daily permits purchased within a 15-day period toward an annual permit by returning the stubs with your application.

DOG BEHAVIOR 101



Dogs have very different styles of play. Some are rough-and-tumble, some like to chase, bark or nip, and others prefer limited physical contact.

Common types of potentially aggressive behavior include:

- Bullying - domineering dog does not relinquish control over a submissive dog.
- Mounting - common behavior, escalates into more combative actions.
- Ambushing - threatening behavior between unfamiliar dogs, often at entrances.
- Provoking - dog treating another dog as prey by chasing, stalking and nipping.
- Possessive - defending of property; barking, snapping and growling to prevent other dogs or people from approaching.
- Packing - more than four or five dogs packed and grouped can lead to trouble. Break it up before it starts by leading your dog to a neutral area at least 30 feet away.

Dog fights - What to do:

- Remain as calm as possible.
- Exchange information with all involved.
- If personal injury is incurred, contact the Health Department at 410-313-2640.

ABOUT HoCoDog

The Howard County Dog Owners Group (HoCoDog) is an all-volunteer group whose members work hard to ensure that your visit to the Off-Leash Area is safe for you and your dog.

The group serves as an advisory committee to the Recreation & Parks Department. Users of the Off-Leash Area are welcome to attend meetings held at the Department headquarters at 7120 Oakland Mills Road in Columbia. For information, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/rap. Your comments are welcome.

To learn more about HoCoDog and its volunteer activities, see its Web site at www.hocodog.weebly.com.

HoCoDog is a private organization. Howard County does not necessarily endorse its activities or services.

UPPER FIELD RENTALS

The Upper field is available to rent from May through November for special events and private use.

There is a \$30/hour fee for special event rentals and \$15/hour for training.

Contact Registration at 410-313-4682 for additional information.

The Parking area for use of the Upper Field is limited to 60 spaces.

APPLICATION FORM: 0072.601

☐ New Permit

☐ Permit Renewal

Owner's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Home Telephone _____ Work Telephone _____

Dog 1 _____

Name _____ Breed _____ M/F _____ Birth date _____

License # _____ County _____ Exp. Date _____

Rabies Certificate # _____ Exp. Date _____ Altered (Y/N) _____

Dog 2 _____

Name _____ Breed _____ M/F _____ Birth date _____

License # _____ County _____ Exp. Date _____

Rabies Certificate # _____ Exp. Date _____ Altered (Y/N) _____

Dog 3 _____

Name _____ Breed _____ M/F _____ Birth date _____

License # _____ County _____ Exp. Date _____

Rabies Certificate # _____ Exp. Date _____ Altered (Y/N) _____

I agree to abide by all the rules & regulations of Howard County Recreation & Parks. I agree to hold Howard County, its employees, officials and agents harmless from any and all claims for damages unless due to the sole negligence of the County, its employees or agents.

Signature _____ Date _____

Credit Card Payment:
☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ American Express ☐ Discover Exp. Date: _____

Card # _____ CVC # _____

Cardholder Signature _____ Date _____