

COUNTY OF BUCKS
Department of Parks & Recreation
Off-Leash Dog Area
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

Q - What is the official name of the dog park?

A - The Bucks County Off-Leash Dog Area at Core Creek Park.

Q - Where is the dog park located in the County?

A - The park is located at the Tollgate Road entrance to Core Creek Park in Langhorne, PA.

Q - Is the dog park open and who can utilize the facility?

A – The Off-Leash Dog Area is open. Access cards will be issued to persons listed on an approved application subject to the following:

- A completed Off-Leash Dog Area Application Form
- Proof of a current valid dog license from the applicant’s County of residence. Please note that the license does not have to be issued from Bucks County, but from the location of the dog’s main year-round residence.
- Proof of up to date immunizations (Rabies)
- Signed Release of Liability & Waiver Form (signed by all persons listed on the application)
- Receipt of the Annual fee good until December 31 (no pro-rating):
 Bucks County Residents - \$25.00, Non-Residents of Bucks County - \$40.00

Q – What are the hours of operation of the dog park?

A – The Off-Leash Dog Area is open from 7:00 AM to Sunset, seven (7) days a week, weather and conditions permitting. On occasion the Park may be closed for short durations for maintenance related issues.

Q – Who is currently processing applications for the access cards & application forms?

A – All inquiries should be directed to the Department of Parks & Recreation office, located at Core Creek Park at 901 E. Bridgetown Pike, Langhorne, PA, telephone # 215-757-0571, Monday-Friday (with the exception of official County holidays) from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. Copies of the application forms can be obtained there. Other locations may be added.

Q - How is the dog park structured and setup for use?

A - The Off-Leash Dog Area is separated into two (2) distinctly separate fenced in areas. They are as follows: Large Dog Area (Dogs over 28 lbs.) and a Small Dog Area (Dogs 28 lbs. or less).

There are two (2) separate entrance/exit areas. This provides a safe area for you to remove or put on your dog’s leash before entering or exiting the Off-Leash Dog Area. When registering your dog it will be determined, based on the information provided, which areas your dog will have access to in the Off-Leash Dog Area. Each access card will be programmed to allow access to only one of those designated areas. Through the use of this software feature we are hopeful that we can help minimize potential problems, injuries and misuse of the facility.

Q – How do we provide feedback on the park or log complaints about other dog owners?

A – Comments, questions, suggestions, and complaints can be emailed to corecreekdogs@co.bucks.pa.us or by phone to the Department of Parks & Recreation at 215-757-0571. We ask that you attempt to resolve issues with other dog owners prior to filing a formal complaint against them.

Q – What facilities are available at the dog park for both the owners and the dogs?

A - The Off-Leash Dog Area provides the following amenities:

- Secure Access
- Landscaped Planting Areas
- Convenient Access to Parking/Restrooms
- Dog Play Features (Hydrants, Pipes)
- Benches and Pathways
- Water Fountains
- Large Shade Trees
- Biodegradable bags & waste stations

Q - How does the secure gate access card reader system work?

A- Prospective Off-Leash Dog Area users who have successfully completed the application form and provided the necessary documentation for their four legged friend(s) will be issued an access card. The card will be coded to allow access to either the small dog area or large dog area. The gate access security system will trigger the magnetic lock that opens the gate into the unleashing area when a registered card is held up to the card reader. To exit the Off-Leash Dog Area, users will need to use their access card that will allow the gate to open.

Q - How old must someone be to take a dog into the dog park?

A- A person must be 18 years old to take a dog into the Off-Leash Dog Area. Someone 18 years or younger may accompany an adult in the Off-Leash Dog Area but the dog must remain under the supervision of the adult over the age of 18.

Q - Are the “dog passes” transferable between different dog owners?

A - **No, passes are not transferable between owners! They may be used only by the persons and dogs listed on the application.** Each dog must be registered and each owner and handler is required to complete the Application Form and to sign the “Acceptance of Risk & Release of Liability Waiver Form”. By signing this form, each applicant is assuming the risk and liability for the dog he or she has registered. By allowing other dogs to enter the Off-Leash Dog Area with your pass, you have now assumed full liability for those dogs and have breached our contractual agreement for use of the Off-Leash Dog Area. Further, we have tried diligently to ensure that every dog utilizing the enclosure has been properly vaccinated and has passed an initial screening process. Your failure to adhere to these basic rules could jeopardize your ability to utilize the Off-Leash Dog Area in the future, as well as the Off-Leash Dog Area itself.

Q – Are food and treats allowed in the dog park?

A - No. We ask that you don't bring any kind of food or treats (people or animal) into the park. This could cause an unsafe situation for the dog owners and the dogs.

Q - Is cleaning up after my dog really an issue at the dog park?

A - YES. You MUST clean up after your dog. This is one of the number one reasons municipalities are closing dog parks across the country. Consider the following and the safety of your dog. Here are some reasons why:

- #1. Disease Control - There are several very common diseases that can be transmitted to dogs, cats and people through feces. These include giardia, whipworm, roundworms, salmonella, and E-coli. In addition, your dog can spread or contract parvovirus or coronavirus through infected feces. All of these diseases are very serious and common and every effort should be made by pet owners to keep their pets and family away from potentially infected feces.
- #2. Make the Off-Leash Dog Area more Useable - Nobody likes to walk through an area that is hiding "doggie land mines." In addition, the pets will get less interactive exercise and suffer as well.
- #3. Fly Control - Flies will consume and lay eggs in feces. These same flies will then spread disease as they pause on your skin and dog. Need we say more about keeping feces cleaned up to prevent this cycle?
- #4. Responsible Pet Ownership - Your responsibility to clean up after your pet doesn't end when your dog leaves your yard. Pet owners need to clean up after their pet every time they go to the bathroom. Period. No exceptions.

If you are walking in the woods and your dog goes, then bury it. If you are in any park or neighborhood, pick it up with a plastic bag. Don't make your responsibility somebody else's problem.

- #5. Preventing Stool Eating - While most dog owners think this doesn't apply to their dog, the shocking truth is that most dogs will engage in this unsavory practice at some point in their life. Dogs evolved as carnivore/scavengers and feces were considered fair game in lean times. To prevent this occasional indiscretion from becoming a life-long habit, clean up feces as soon as possible, especially in young dogs where the problem is most prevalent.

Q – If one dog snaps at another, are they considered aggressive?

A – No, that is the dog's way of showing that they do not like the attention of another dog. It's their way of saying "leave me alone", "stop sniffing my butt" or "I don't like you". Older dogs and mother dogs will snap when training puppies in proper social behavior, usually there is no contact only snapping at air close to the other dog.

However, in a situation where the dog is tolerating a behavior by another dog that won't stop and then finally snaps, it is a warning, but it may be the final warning. It is also most likely that the dog already gave some other cues of "leave me alone" that another dog or person did not pick up on. (Turning head away, actually walking away, backing away, tail low and between legs, hiding behind a person or object). Regardless of the reason, a snap needs to be taken seriously and acted upon immediately. Remove dog from the situation and leave the Off-Leash Dog Area if necessary, even if you are not ready to leave. Be respectful of your dog's mood, he may have had enough because of being bothered.

Pending on how intense the situation seems, both owners and dogs should consider calling it a day and leave the Off-Leash Dog Area. Also, if this situation would involve a dog and a child or another person, the dog owner needs to respond immediately and leave. It is impossible to describe every situation and not all body language cues apply to all dogs, so err on the side of caution pending on the dogs and owners involved.

Snapping can be considered an aggressive behavior, if it is the first thing the dog does when being approached or greeted by another dog, child, or person. If your dog exhibits this type of behavior, they should not be in an Off-Leash Dog Area.

Q - What is the difference between two dogs that are playing roughly vs. those that are aggressive towards each other?

A - As far as rough play vs. aggression, there should be no rough play at all unless there are ONLY two dogs in the Off-Leash Dog Area, both dogs and owners are familiar with each other and this is how they always play together. As soon as another dog is approaching to enter the park, it's over, PERIOD. You can't have two dogs playing rough, even if that is what they are used to in the presence of other dogs, it will create a dangerous situation.

Dog behavior can be difficult to understand and there are just too many "what ifs". Owners need to be aware of their own dog's behavior, but the dynamic of a dog park will be different every day, every hour, depending on the dogs and owners who are there. Pending the energy and the intensity of the situation, **owners should err on the side of caution**. If they are not sure, or it just doesn't feel right, they should leave the Off-Leash Dog Area.

Each situation is never a totally cut and dry but responsible owners will watch their dog for some of the body language cues. Even if some of these cues are being displayed, it doesn't necessarily mean a fight is ready to break out, but to be on the safe side owners should get involved. If two dogs are involved, even if one of them is not responsible for the behavior, both owners should respond by separating the dogs and keeping them separated.

All information, fees and rules subject to change without notice.