



## Basic P'etiquette

- Please remember, use of the off-leash dog areas are a privilege.
- Keep your dog leashed when approaching the area.
- Do not crowd the entrance gates – it may put new visitors on the defensive.
- After you enter, remove the leash immediately (dogs may become protective if leashed while surrounded by unleashed animals).
- Owners **must** remain with their dogs at all times and are responsible for all actions of their dogs.
- Respond immediately to any **aggressive** behavior towards humans or other dogs. Aggressive animals should be leashed and removed from the off-leash dog area. If a dog remains aggressive and is not removed, you will be asked to leave by Park staff. Repeat offenders will be asked not to return to the site.
- **Fearful dogs** may become dangerous. Anxiety may cause them to bark and/or growl at other animals, which may cause other animals to respond aggressively. If your dog appears to be fearful of the situation, please leash and remove him from the area.

**Follow the rules and be considerate! It will help make sure this area remains open.  
Please clean up after your dog... it's the law**

- Be sure to clean up after your dog and encourage others to do so. Pet waste bags and waste/recycling cans are available within the fenced area. Keeping the off-leash area clean will lead to a healthy and enjoyable environment for all owners and their pets.
- If your dog begins digging on the grounds, please stop it immediately, and then fill in the hole.
- Food and toys can cause possessive behavior and are not recommended in the off-leash areas. Any items left in the area will be removed by Park staff.
- Respect other visitors and their pets by controlling your dog. Leave the area if your dog seems to be having a bad day.
- If your dog is bullied, remove him from the situation immediately.

***Please report all incidents/injuries to the park system immediately by:***

- ***Contacting a Park Ranger***
- ***Calling the Park System Administrative Office at (732) 842-4000 weekdays 8am-4:30pm***
- ***Calling the Monmouth County Communication Center at (732) 577-8700 after hours, weekends and holidays***

**DOES YOUR DOG NEED OBEDIENCE TRAINING?  
Check out the Canine Classes offered throughout the year in our Activity Directory.**



## There are plenty of fun things to do in Monmouth County's parks while keeping your dog leashed:

Hike the Henry Hudson Trail, Aberdeen-Atlantic Highlands or Freehold-Marlboro.

Walk the more than 120 miles of trails contained in all our parks, including: Holmdel Park, Huber Woods, Dorbrook Recreation Area, Manasquan Reservoir, and many others.

Enjoy a picnic with your entire family.

Fish off the pier or cast from the shore at Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth.

Take pleasure in the views of the New York City skyline at Mount Mitchill Scenic Overlook, Atlantic Highlands.

Watch your children have fun at one of our nine parks containing playgrounds, including Shark River Park, Turkey Swamp Park and Tatum Park.

Take advantage of our Canine Classes offered at Thompson Park (see the Activity Directory or [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com) for class schedules).

At these sites, please remember to keep your dog on a leash and under control at all times. Always clean up after your pet.



**For more information contact the Monmouth County Park System at (732)842-4000 or visit us on the web at: [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com)**

Monmouth County  
Board of Chosen Freeholders  
Board of Recreation Commissioners



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10/09

## Monmouth County Park System



# Off-Leash Dog Area Guidelines

Thompson Park, Lincroft, NJ  
& Wolf Hill Recreation Area,  
Oceanport, NJ



[www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com)





**Welcome...** Monmouth County Park System's off-leash dog areas have been specially constructed for dog-owners and their canine companions. Please follow these guidelines to help make your visit enjoyable and successful for all. Use of these areas is a privilege and your cooperation is appreciated. It is helpful to understand your dog's behavior prior to visiting the park. Be sure he is a good off-leash candidate. Your dog is off-leash

ready if he is friendly and responds to voice commands. Understanding that dogs growl and bark to set limits, and knowing whether your dog tends to be dominant or submissive (and other postures), can help you prevent negative dog contact before it occurs. Before entering the off-leash area, determine the atmosphere and whether it is right for your dog that day. If this is your first visit, stay only a short time or visit at a quiet period.



*The Wolf Hill Recreation Area Off-Leash Dog Area (open 8am to dusk) has a unique oval design with a natural area in the center. It combines an area for dogs of all sizes, and an area for smaller dogs weighing 35 lbs. or less. The All Dog Area features two concrete patios, each with a sheltered bench. The Small Dog Area has a concrete patio with sheltered picnic area. Dog waste bags and waste/recycling cans can be found in both areas. This 92-acre site also features portable toilets near the parking lot, and open areas where you can take a stroll (dogs must be leashed). Softball fields are available for a fee, by reservation only.*



*The Thompson Park Off-Leash Dog Area (open 8am to dusk) combines an area for dogs of all sizes, and an area for smaller dogs weighing 35 lbs. or less. A concrete walkway and patio greet you upon entrance, featuring a water fountain with two levels, one for humans and the other for their canine companions. Dog waste bags and waste/recycling cans can be found in both dog areas. Thompson Park's 667 acres serve as administrative headquarters for the Park System, and the following amenities are also available: Visitor Center; restrooms; vending machines; playground; lake; tennis courts; reservable picnic areas; and more than 12 miles of beautiful, multi-use trails including a 4.9 mile paved trail.*



## Guidelines of Use

**Users must abide by all rules and regulations** governing the use of Monmouth County Park and Recreation lands and must comply with the directions of Park System personnel.

**Children under 8 years of age are not permitted** within the off-leash dog area. Children 8 years of age and older must be closely supervised by an adult.

**There is a limit of 2 dogs per person.** At Thompson Park Off-Leash Dog Area at no time should the number of dogs exceed 20 and the number of people exceed 25. At the Wolf Hill Recreation Off-Leash Dog Area at no time should the number of dogs exceed 25 and the number of people exceed 35. When others are waiting, please limit your use to 30 minutes.

**Users are responsible at all times** for the behavior and safety of their dogs and should be considerate of other users.

**Dogs with a history of dangerous or aggressive behavior are prohibited.** Puppies under 4 months old are prohibited. Dogs over 6 months old must be spayed or neutered.

**Dogs must wear collars displaying licenses at all times and have current vaccinations.**

**Dogs must be leashed prior to entering and upon leaving.** Users must remain with their dogs at all times and must carry a leash for each dog at all times.

**Users must properly secure access gates** upon entering and leaving the off-leash area. Once within the area, users must momentarily restrain their dogs when others are entering or leaving in order to prevent dogs from leaving the enclosure.

**Users must clean up after their dogs.**

**A complete list of Guidelines are available on our web site.**