

Frequently Asked Questions

What exactly is the Pooch Playground?

The Pooch Playground is a fenced area for dogs to safely and legally run off leash with other dogs.

What do I need to bring to the Pooch Playground?

You should have an ample supply of pickup bags and water for your dog.

Why does Gahanna need a dog park?

Gahanna has a diverse population and strives to provide balanced recreational facilities to support all of its citizens. Residents need a place for their dogs to exercise and socialize with other dogs to prevent behavioral problems and aggression.

There are more than 4,200 dogs in Gahanna.

Between 30 - 40% households have dogs.

Dog ownership promotes human wellness and reduces stress.

Local ordinances require dogs be kept on leash.

No place for owners to allow their dogs to run freely and to socialize with other dogs.

Dogs need exercise to prevent problems for their owners.

More than 1500 communities have already successfully established dog parks including several cities in Ohio - Cincinnati, Eastlake, Springboro, Xenia, Westerville, and Columbus.

What are the benefits of the dog park?

Promotes City of Gahanna's reputation as an innovative, exceptional place to live

Provides service for Gahanna citizens who don't use existing park playgrounds or sporting areas

Minimizes need for fencing in neighborhoods where fences are discouraged
Provides a safe, secure site for owners to exercise dog
Promotes higher compliance with existing laws
Invaluable for elderly or disabled individuals to exercise their dogs
Encourages responsible dog ownership
Reduces destructive behavior and nuisance barking
Reduces dog aggression through socialization
Encourages year-round use of Gahanna parks; can increase safety and security of little-used park areas
Provides social setting for dog owners
Promotes exercise for owners
Reduces number of dogs abandoned or turned into shelters
Encourages visitors to patronize Gahanna shops and businesses.

Who owns the Pooch Playground?

The Pooch Playground is owned, operated, and maintained by the City of Gahanna Parks and Recreations Department. Any problems with maintenance should be reported to the Parks Department at 614-342-4250

Is there a fee to use the Pooch Playground?

No. Gahanna's Pooch Playground is free to the public.

Do you have to be a Gahanna Resident?

No. You do not have to be a Gahanna Resident to enjoy the park; however, we hope that you will visit our great city and support our local business while you are on your way to and from the park.

How big is the park?

The Pooch Playground is about 3 acres. There are separate fenced areas for large dogs, small dogs (25 pounds or less) and an agility area. Eventually, the large dog area will be expanded in size.

When is the park open?

The park is open from dawn to dusk, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, unless closed for maintenance or by the Parks Department for a special event.

Do I have to keep my small dog in the small-dog area?

Although small dogs are permitted in the large dog area, dog owners must be aware that small dogs can be seriously injured by larger dogs. Small dogs can be hurt when playing with larger dogs, and some large dogs consider small dogs are prey.

Do I have to have a dog to use the park?

You are welcome to come just to watch the dogs at play. In fact, if you are thinking about getting a dog, the Pooch Playground is an excellent place to learn about different dog breeds. We also sponsor Rescue Romps where you can meet dogs ready for adoption.

How many dogs can I bring?

The Pooch Playground rules allow 3 dogs per person. However, if you are not sure how your dogs will react to a lot of other dogs and people, you may want to bring one dog at a time until they get used to the park.

Do you have to register to use the Pooch Playground?

You do not have to register to use the Pooch Playground, but Franklin County requires all dogs over three months old to have a current license and rabies vaccination. You can find information about getting a license at <http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/auditor/Consumer/dogs/welcome.shtm>

The Pooch Playground operates on an honor system and expects all users to comply with county ordinances. Animal control officers can ask to see proof of registration and rabies vaccination at any time.

Does my dog have to be spayed or neutered?

No. Your dog does not have to be spayed or neutered to use the park; however, we strongly recommend you do so unless you intend to breed or show your dog. Spayed and neutered dogs are usually healthier and get along better with other dogs.

Can I bring my new puppy to the Pooch Playground?

No. Puppies less than four months old usually have not received all of their vaccinations and could be exposed to canine diseases for which they have no immunization. There are other safer ways to socialize your puppy until your veterinarian says it is okay to take your puppy to the Pooch Playground.

Do I have to clean up after my dog?

Yes. You must watch your dog and clean up any deposits made by your dog. You can help keep the park successful by cleaning up any deposits inadvertently missed by other dog owners. We try to keep extra plastic bags available for pickup but be sure to bring extras to share. Trash cans are available in the park.

Is there a restroom available for dog owners?

There are porta-potties available outside of the fenced Pooch Playground area.

Do I have to let my dog off of the leash at the Pooch Playground?

You do not have to let your dog off leash; however, dogs that are on leash may be fearful and defensive when surrounded by other dogs. Your dog will feel safer and be more comfortable off leash.

Are there any breed restrictions at the Pooch Playground?

There are no breed restrictions at the Pooch Playground; however, no aggressive dogs of any breed may be brought to the park.

What happens if there is a dog fight?

Although dog fights are not common at a dog park, they can occur at any time. It is almost impossible to tell which dog started the fight. If a fight occurs, remain calm and separate the dogs as safely as possible. The safest way is to grab your dog by the hind legs and pull your dog out of the fight. NEVER REACH FOR THE COLLAR. Once the dogs are separated, leash your dog and move him away from the area. If your dog is injured, exchange contact information with the other dog owner and see your veterinarian. If your dog is not involved, don't let him run in to join the fight. For additional information, please see

[Preventing Dog Fights.](#)

What should I do if someone is bitten at Pooch Playground?

Dog bites are rare at dog parks, especially if all users follow the rules and respect other people and dogs. But if someone is bitten, (1) get the person who was bit medical attention immediately, including calling 911 if necessary; (2) get the identity of the dog who did the biting and the name of its owner; (3) contact Franklin County Board of Health (614) 462-3160 within 24 hours to report the bite.

What is Pooch Playground, Incorporated?

Pooch Playground, Inc. is a non-profit corporation that was started by dog owners to work with the City of Gahanna to support the dog park. Pooch Playground, Inc. conducts fund raising, organizes events, and promotes public awareness for Gahanna's Pooch Playground

What can I do to help the park?

There are so many ways that you can help. One is to bring water and pick-up bags to the park for your dog and others. There are several bag holders located throughout the park where you can stuff your excess plastic bags. Pick up after your dog and help others to remember. Pick up balls and toys after you are finished playing with them. [Contact us](#) to see other ways you can help by volunteering for one of our committees to raise funds or work events or [make a donation](#).

How do I let the City of Gahanna know my comments?

Please email the [City of Gahanna](#) and let them know your comments. We need to get word to them how much the park is appreciated.