

## GREEN DOG PARKS & OFF-LEASH HOURS

Parks listed are shared use spaces. Please be considerate of other park users.

### OFF-LEASH HOURS:

(All hours are subject to change, please heed signage.)

#### Dawn to 9:00 AM

- Boylston Street Playground (Boylston St.)
- Coolidge Playground (Columbia St.)
- Corey Hill Park (Summit Ave.) Overlook Area Only
- Emerson Garden (Waverly St.)
- Waldstein Playground (Dean Rd.)
- Schick Park (Addington Rd.)
- Robinson Playground (Cypress & Franklin St.)
- Soule Playground Upper Field (Hammond St.)

#### Dawn to 1:00 PM

- Amory Playground (Amory St.)
- Eliot Playground (Eliot St.)
- Griggs Park (Griggs Rd.)

#### Dawn to 1:00 PM, April through November Dawn to Dusk, December through February

- Brookline Avenue Playground (Brookline Ave.)
- Harry Downes Playground (Highland Rd.)  
Note: No dogs allowed in fenced portion of park with track.
- Larz Anderson Park (Newton St.)  
Note: Top of the hill area, Avon Street side ONLY. No dogs allowed in children's play area, pond, garden area or BBQ sites/shelter.

Dogs are not allowed on any fields when the ground is thawing, generally during the entire month of March.

Parks not listed do not have off-leash hours.

If you see a violation, please report it!  
Contact the Brookline Police Department 24-hours  
a day at (617) 730-2222

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Why do I need to pay a fee to participate?

The Green Dog Program is an optional recreation program and a service to the community. Fees are charged similar to other recreation programs, and are used by the Town to cover costs incurred by the program, including assistance and oversight in the parks, associated field repair and maintenance, program administration and tags, web updates, informational materials and signage, communication and outreach, monitoring of park conditions, evaluation of program usage, and program improvements.

### Why are there no evening off-leash hours?

The Park and Recreation Commission considered the needs of both dog owners and non-dog owners when establishing the off-leash hours. There are currently no evening off-leash hours since most parks have heavy use from other users during this time, particularly during the athletic season. Two of our parks, Brookline Avenue Playground and Larz Anderson Park, do have off-leash hours from dawn to dusk during the winter months (December to February).

### If no one else is using the park, why is having off-leash time outside of established hours a problem?

While it may seem that off-leash play outside of Green Dog hours in an otherwise unoccupied park would be harmless, there are many other factors to consider. Parks can develop a culture that off-leash time is permissible at all hours, which over time can break down the shared-space model. Neighborhood parks and fields may be seen as dog parks or unwelcome spots for passive recreation or play, which is the opposite messaging and mission we want to promote. Individuals wanting to use the space while dogs are illegally off-leash are put into potentially awkward or unpleasant situations where they have to ask or confront dog owners.

### Why are waste bags not provided?

Per the Town of Brookline bylaws: No person owning, possessing or controlling a dog shall appear with such dog on any sidewalk, tree lawn, gutter, street, park or other public area without having the means of removal of any feces left by such dog in his or her possession. While we have no objection to neighborhood providing discreet containers or bags to donate/share waste bags, the Green Dog Program believes it is the responsibility of each pet owner to have their own waste bags.

### HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Please visit our website at [www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDog](http://www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDog) or contact us at (617) 879-5650 or [green@brooklinema.gov](mailto:green@brooklinema.gov).

Town of Brookline

# GreenDog Program



Under supervision of the:  
Brookline Park and Recreation Commission  
& Parks and Open Space Division

870 Hammond Street  
Brookline, MA 02467  
617-879-5650

Contact us at:  
[GreenDog@Brooklinema.gov](mailto:GreenDog@Brooklinema.gov)

[www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDog](http://www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDog)  
Follow us on Twitter @BrooklineDogs



## WHAT IS THE GREEN DOG PROGRAM?

Participants in the Green Dog Program enjoy time to play with their dogs off-leash, while sharing the spaces with other park users. Dog owners must register for the program, pay the annual fee, follow the program rules and regulations, and adhere to the specific off-leash hours established by the Park and Recreation Commission.

The Park and Recreation Commission has a responsibility to address any issues promptly and appropriately. The Commission has the authority to temporarily or permanently close, or modify the boundaries of off-leash areas for any reason including the following: park damage, failure to comply with rules and regulations, public health or safety, or problems affecting other park users' enjoyment of the park. Violators are subject to incremental fines, removal from the off-leash area, and suspension of off-leash privileges.

## IS MY DOG READY?

We are glad you are interested in the Green Dog Program! Before jumping into the registration process, let's make sure you and your dog(s) are ready to join.

### PRE-REGISTRATION CHECKLIST:

Dog(s) must be...

- At least 6 months old to participate
- Up-to date on all vaccinations
- Healthy
- Trained
- Under voice control

Dog(s) must not be...

- Aggressive towards people, other dogs, or wildlife

## HOW TO REGISTER

### ONLINE (Brookline Residents Only)

Apply for or renew Green Dog registration and dog license online at <https://www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDogRegistration>

### BY MAIL

Download the instructions and forms to sign up for the Green Dog Program and dog license at <https://www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDogRegistration>. Mail the completed form, proof of rabies vaccination and payment to:

Green Dog Program  
c/o Town Clerk's Office  
333 Washington Street  
Brookline, MA 02445

### IN PERSON

Stop by the above office and drop off or request forms to license your dog and sign up for the Green Dog Program

### GREEN DOG PROGRAM ANNUAL FEES:\*

Resident Fee per Dog _____	\$100
Non-Resident Fee per Dog _____	\$150
Brookline Commercial Dog Walker Fee _____	\$100
Non-Brookline Commercial Dog Walker Fee _____	\$200

### GREEN DOG PROGRAM PRORATED FEES:\*

Resident Fee per Dog _____	\$50
Non-Resident Fee per Dog _____	\$75
Brookline Commercial Dog Walker Fee _____	\$100
Non-Brookline Commercial Dog Walker Fee _____	\$200

### GUEST PERMIT FEES:\*

Two-Day Permit Fee per Dog _____	\$5
One-Week Permit Fee per Dog _____	\$10

\*Annual fees cover the calendar year, but will be prorated for dogs new to the Program or to Brookline. Prorated fees begin on/after September 1st. Tags expire at the end of December, and must be renewed each year. For non residents, dog walkers, or guest permits, visit [www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDog](http://www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDog)

## BEFORE YOUR VISIT

We hope you enjoy the off-leash opportunities available to you and your dog. Before visiting a designated Green Dog area, please make sure you...

- Put the dog license/Green Dog tag and identification on your dog's collar. Dogs must be wearing a current tag to be allowed off-leash
- Bring bags for your dog's waste
- Review the program's rules and regulations



## RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Keep your dog on-leash until you are in the designated Green Dog area. Keep your leash on hand at all times.
- Check for park closed signs, wet fields, crews working in the park, or permitted activities, all of which mean off-leash hours are suspended.
- Pick up after your dog and encourage others to do the same.
- Keep your dog in sight at all times and under voice control.
- Keep dogs out of the playground and hardcourt areas (basketball, tennis courts, etc.)
- Excessive barking is not allowed. Please play quietly.
- Dogs must not enter sanctuaries or sensitive open spaces, such as flower beds, damage fields by digging, or chase or disturb wildlife.
- The number of dogs per person is limited to three.
- Dogs in heat are not allowed off-leash.
- Be mindful of your dog so that other park visitors feel safe. Many people do not like unfamiliar dogs approaching them, and only you know whether your dog is friendly to other people.

## FIELD CLOSURES

Fields may be completely closed due to inclement weather or for other reasons related to maintaining healthy fields.

For up to date information on field closures:

-  Call Green Dog Hotline at (617) 879-4850
-  Join us on Twitter @BrooklineDogs
-  Check out [www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDog](http://www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDog) for a calendar of permitted events and field updates

