

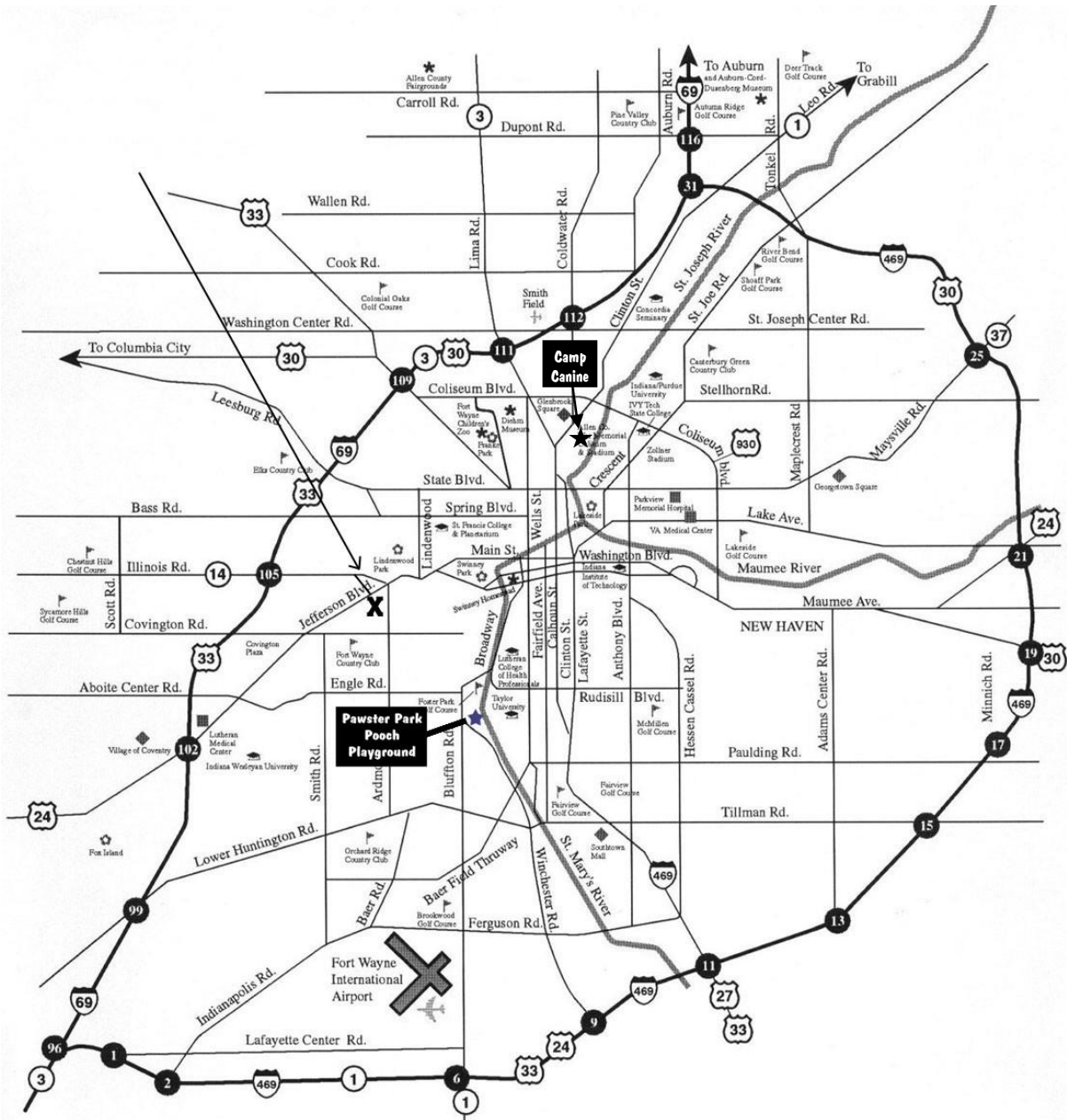
Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation  
**Dog Park Rules, Regulations  
and Recommendations**



**Pawster Park  
Pooch Playground  
and  
Camp Canine**

# PAWSTER PARK POOCH PLAYGROUND AND CAMP CANINE

Pawster Park Pooch Playground is located in Foster Park West on Winchester Road, just off Bluffton Road. Camp Canine is located in Johnny Appleseed Park and can be entered off Coliseum Blvd. or Parnell Ave. Both dog parks are public facilities owned and operated by the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department. All dogs (except female dogs in heat) are welcome subject to the rules and regulations in this packet.



# **POOCH PASS**

All dogs visiting Pawster Park Pooch Playground or Camp Canine must have a valid Pooch Pass. To obtain a Pooch Pass, stop by the Parks and Recreation office any weekday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**Parks and Recreation  
Administrative Office  
705 East State Boulevard  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805**

**(260)427-6000**

A Pooch Pass is required for every dog.

A single Pooch Pass is valid for both dog parks.

Pooch Passes become available in January for the current year. They may be purchased any time, but are valid only for the year in which they are purchased.

Annual Pooch Pass fee is \$40/dog.

Half Season passes are available beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> for a fee of \$20/dog

Limit three (3) Pooch Passes per household.

Dog owners must provide proof that rabies, distemper, and parvo vaccinations are up to date and were administered by a licensed veterinarian. Tags must be visibly attached to your dog's collar at all times.

All Pooch Passes shall be valid from the time they are issued until December 31 of the same year. Fees will not be pro-rated. Color-coded tags will contain a registration number and the year for which the tag is valid.

# **PAWSTER PARK / CAMP CANINE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- Pawster Park Pooch Playground and Camp Canine are open 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. daily. The maximum number of dogs safely accommodated in the playground at any given time is 50. Please limit your visit to one hour during times of peak use.
- All dogs must have their "Pooch Pass" visibly displayed on their collar while inside the playground.
- Rabies tags must be worn and displayed by all dogs at all times.
- **Always keep an eye on your dog. Never leave your dog unattended.**
- Dogs known to exhibit vicious, fierce, aggressive, or dangerous behavior are not permitted at any time in the park or in the Pooch Playground. Please extend common courtesy to other users. If your dog becomes unruly or aggressive toward other dogs, you must leash your dog and exit the enclosure.
- Always clean up after your dog. It's the law. A container is available in the park for this purpose. Please bring your own bags.
- Female dogs in heat are not permitted in the playground and should not be brought to the park.
- Dogs, owners, and users creating a disturbance or violating posted rules must leave the playground if requested by law enforcement personnel, park personnel, or their designated agents.
- Don't bring more than three dogs to the playground.
- Dogs under four (4) months of age are not permitted in the playground. Puppies are not fully vaccinated, and are vulnerable to disease and injury.
- If you bring children to the Pooch Playground, supervise them closely. Children under fourteen (14) years of age must be accompanied by an adult.
- Dogs may not be left unattended or out of sight range or voice command.
- **Dogs must be on a 6' lead** until safely inside the playground enclosure (corral). It's the law.
- Please remove pinch (prong) collars and spike collars from dogs before entering the park. Other dogs can be injured while playing.
- No wolves or wolf hybrids allowed.

- Do not bring glass containers to the facility.
- Do not bring food (people food, dog food or dog treats) into the playground. Many owners do not feed treats and some dogs may be allergic. Food may also make a docile dog aggressive.
- Do not eat or smoke while in or around the playground. Cigarette butts and food wrappers are tempting and unhealthy for dogs.
- Maintenance needs of the site will vary based on weather and use. You are asked to vacate the playground during maintenance activities.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**



- Do not open the outside gate if an inside gate is open. Be patient.
- Ensure that all gates are closed behind you. Check all entrances before unleashing your dog.
- Remove your dog's leash inside the double-gated holding pen. Be sure gate area is not congested with excited dogs ready to pounce on your pup. Enter the area, close gate and move your dog away from the entrance.
- Dogs should receive year-round heartworm prevention treatment.
- Have drinking water readily available for your dog before and after exercise. You must provide your own water and bowls.
- ALL dogs benefit from guidance and structure. Basic obedience training is a must for safety, and a well-socialized happy dog. This is one of the best things you can do for your dog – and your family and friends.

# Be Aware of Risks

While it may be tempting to stand back and be a passive observer, all users will have a much more rewarding experience if basic rules are actively observed. Use of the Pooch Playground is not a right - it is a privilege. Please do not allow unacceptable or irresponsible behavior to ruin the fun for other users.

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation strives to provide a fun, safe environment for you and your dog. However, by using this facility you agree that you understand and assume all responsibility and liability for the risks of unleashing your dog in the facility.

Potential risks include, but are not limited to:

1. This is the dog's park. There are plenty of other parks and playgrounds where children can be socialized. Not all dogs are child-friendly. Never allow your child to approach or pet a dog without the owner's presence and approval.
2. Young children are easily knocked over or trampled by running dogs.
3. Herding dogs may nip at children while attempting to round them up.
4. Infectious diseases such as rabies, kennel cough or Lyme disease.
5. Dog theft or unlawful capture by other people.
6. Dog escapes over or under fences.
7. Plants and/or water sources in the park that may be poisonous to dogs.
8. Park vegetation that may have burrs or seeds that could get tangled in a dog's coat or lodge in a dog's feet, ears, or eyes.
9. Mosquitoes, ticks, chiggers, fleas or other insects that may be present.
10. Wild animals in the parks such as skunks, raccoons, or stray dogs, all of which might injure or infect your dog.
11. **Parents:** If you do bring your children into the Pooch Playground, please teach them how to behave with animals and what to do in an emergency:  
*Never run! Hide face. Tuck arms and legs into body. Curl up in a ball, face down on hands and knees. Be as still and quiet as possible. Wait for help or until the dog has left.*
12. Dog fights, dog bites and injuries to humans and other dogs ...

## **If a Dog Bite Occurs . . .**

In order for the bite to be defined as a bite - it must break the skin and must have been caused by oral contact (not a nail scratch).

A dog bite to a human or another animal **must be reported**. The biting animal will be quarantined for ten days to ensure it is healthy and does not pose a rabies risk. In this case, the bite most likely happened inside the confines of the Pooch Playground so the dog will be considered legally restrained at the time of the bite. If a dog bite happens while at the park:

- Immediately secure the biting dog and the victim dog. Leash them and keep separated.
- Any wounds should be washed immediately with clean water
- Owners of dogs involved should exchange names, addresses, and telephone numbers.
- Owners should then take their dog home or to a veterinarian for necessary medical care. If a bite has occurred to a person they should consult their physician.
- If the biting dog's owner lives inside the city limits of Fort Wayne they should call:

Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control: 427-1244

On weekends and holidays call: 427-1222

An animal Control Officer will be dispatched to take a bite report and enact quarantine. Please have rabies vaccination information ready for the officer.

- If the biting dog's owner lives in Allen County outside the city limits, call:

Allen County Sheriff's Animal Control at 449-7491

- Dogs who have bitten while at the Pooch Playground will not be allowed to return.

The Pooch Playground is not staffed or supervised by any agent or employee of Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department or the City of Fort Wayne. Users therefore are required to abide by posted rules and etiquette at all times while on the premises.


Police and Animal Control Officers will make periodic site visits.

# Final Notes

Maintenance crews will conduct turf care and other site work as the need arises. Please allow them to complete their tasks to ensure the site meets expectations. You will need to vacate the play area while this work is in progress.

For practical reasons, the play fields WILL NOT be plowed of snow. Mother Nature will guide site use during snow periods.

Dog owners and individuals accompanying them use the facility entirely at their own risk and that of their dogs. Owners are responsible and liable for the actions and behavior of their dogs at all times. Neither Parks and Recreation nor the City of Fort Wayne assumes liability for loss, damage, or any kind of injury sustained by any human or dog while using the Pooch Playground. You will be required to complete a Waiver of Liability form before you are issued a Pooch Pass.

Please retain this information and ensure that family members and friends who may accompany you to the park are aware of the rules, regulations, recommendations and risks that apply. 

**It is important that you familiarize yourself with pertinent City Ordinances that apply to the use of this site as well as park and park facilities in general. These ordinances are available at the City of Fort Wayne web site at:**

<http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/city-code.html>

**Please refer to city codes, chapters 91 (Parks and Recreation) and 97 (Animal Control) and all other city codes that apply.**

**FORT WAYNE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**





## Release of Liability

I hereby acknowledge that I voluntarily have applied to participate and use, with my dog(s), the Pooch Playground in Foster Park West and/or Camp Canine in Johnny Appleseed Park. I understand that the act of unleashing my dog(s) and being physically present inside the dog parks necessarily involves risks of injury to me, other people, my dog(s), and other dogs, which risks are entirely my responsibility. I expressly assume all of these risks. I further understand that dogs, irrespective of their training and usual past behavior or characteristics, may act or react unpredictably at times based upon instinct or circumstances, and I agree to assume the risk of injury to me, any individual accompanying me in either dog park, and my dog(s). I understand that this risk may result from fierce, aggressive, vicious, and dangerous dogs, which may be present in the dog parks. I further understand and assume the risk that not all dogs present in the dog parks have received the Rabies vaccine as required by law, and that not all dogs using the dog parks have been vaccinated for Distemper or Parvo, all of which could result in injury to me and my dog(s). Additional risks include, but are not limited to: dog fights, dog bites and injuries to humans and other dogs; dog theft or unlawful capture; dog escape over or under fences; plants and/or water sources in the park may be poisonous to dogs; park vegetation may have burrs or seeds that could become tangled in a dog's coat or lodge in a dog's feet, ears, nose, or eyes; mosquitoes, ticks, chiggers, fleas or other insects may be present; wild animals such as skunks, raccoons, opossums, or stray dogs could be present in the parks, all of which might injure or infect my dog(s). I understand and expressly assume all additional risks.

It is my understanding that no agent or employee of Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation or the City of Fort Wayne will supervise the dog parks at any time. I further understand that neither Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation nor the City of Fort Wayne assumes liability for loss, damage, or any kind of injury sustained by any human or dog while using the dog parks. I, therefore, expressly assume all risks associated with using the dog parks, as well as fixtures and equipment located therein, in an unsupervised manner.

By signing this release of liability and using the Pawster Park Pooch Playground and/or Camp Canine, I hereby fully and forever release and discharge Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, the City of Fort Wayne and their employees and agents from any and all claims, demands, damages, rights of action, or causes of action present or future, whether the same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from or arising out of my use or intended use of said dog park premises. I fully and forever release and discharge Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, the City of Fort Wayne, and their employees and agents from any and all negligent acts and omissions in the same, and intend to be legally bound by this lease.

I have carefully read this release of liability and understand and fully agree with its contents. I also have received a copy of the brochure outlining rules for use, etiquette for dog owners and recommendations for dog owners.

***This is a release of liability. Do not sign if you do not understand or do not agree with its terms.***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_