Prohibited on School Grounds

The Town of Arlington is receiving increased complaints of dogs being off-leash outside of allowable hours and dogs on school department property. Off-leash hours are between 6-9 a.m. at designated areas only.

Please be advised that any resident with a dog that is off leash in an unapproved location and/or time can be cited. Citations are also given for failing to clean up after your dog. For failing to do so, there is a $75 fine for the first offense with increased fines for subsequent offenses.

Arlington Public Schools DO NOT allow dogs, leashed or unleashed, on school property, including playgrounds at any time. Per the Arlington Public School parent handbook: Pets-Parents and children are reminded that pets are not allowed on school property. This is both a safety issue and a health concern. Please do not walk dogs or other animals on the school grounds. This also applies to families when dropping off and picking up their children.

Thank you in advance for your compliance as we all work together for the health and safety of our residents and students.

Questions relative to ADA regulations:
https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm

Town By-Law: Title VIII - Public Health and Safety Section 2. Leashing of Dogs:
Notwithstanding the foregoing, from park opening time until 9 am, a maximum of two dogs per handler may be off-leash, under effective owner control, in all lands under control of the Park and Recreation Commission except: 1. those lands directly contiguous to school properties; 2. within 15 feet of playground equipment; 3. by specific exclusion of the Park and Recreation Commission.

Off Leash Laws & Violation-Fines

Offenses and Fines:

Off Leash:
1st offense: $75
2nd offense: $100
3rd offense: $150
4th and subsequent offenses: $200

Failure to Pick Up Feces/Disposal:
1st offense: $75
2nd offense: $100
3rd and subsequent offenses: $150

Failure to License:
Failure to license: $25
Failure to display dog license: $50

To Report an off-leash violation, contact:
Arlington Police/Animal Control Officer at
781-643-1212

To file a complaint about Parallel or Thorndike off-leash dog recreation area:
email the Recreation Department at
recoffice@town.arlington.ma.us

The Animal Control Officer enforces town by-laws as well as animal control laws under Massachusetts M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 136A - 174E.
For more information on Arlington town bylaws, visit https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/laws-and-regulations/town-bylaws

For information about animal control laws in Massachusetts, visit https://malegislature.gov/Laws/General Laws/Part I/Title XX/Chapter140

Off Leash Dog Regulations

Town of Arlington

Park Commission
Recreation Dept.
School Dept.
Police Dept.

Off Leash Hours 6:00-9:00 am

Off-Leash Hours are allowed only in the following parks and are from 6:00 am – 9:00 am every day unless otherwise noted below.

Buzzell: Hours end at 8:00 am on Saturdays and Sundays (4/1 to 6/30 and 9/1-11/15)

Cutter Park

Hill's Hill Upper Area

Hill's Hill Field: Hours end at 8:00 am on Saturdays and Sundays (4/1 to 6/30 and 9/1-11/15)

Hurd/Reservoir Field

Magnolia Park/Playground: No dogs off-leash, please use the fenced Thorndike Off-Leash OLRA ONLY (6:00 am - 9:00 pm)

McClennen Park: Off-Leash hours end at 8:00 am on Saturdays and Sundays (4/1 to 6/30 and 9/1-11/15)

Menotomy Rocks Park: NO DOGS ALLOWED OFF-LEASH AT ANY TIME IN THE WOODS

Park Circle

Poets Corner: Off-Leash hours end at 8:00 am on Saturdays (4/1 to 6/30 and 9/1-11/1)

Reservoir Beach: No dogs allowed off-leash (6/1-8/31)

Robbins Farm Park: Hours are 6:00-9:00 am, M-F (7/1 to 8/31), 6:00-7:45 am, and 8:30-9:00 am M-F (9/1 to 6/30) and 6:00-9:00 am Sat/Sun year-round. All areas in the park can be used for off-leash except the playground area and garden area. However, if the field is in use by the School Dept. or other organized/permitted event, off-leash activity is allowed behind the backstop only.

Spy Pond Field: Hours end at 8:00 am on Saturdays and Sundays (4/1 to 6/30 and 9/1-11/15)

Summer Street Field: Off-Leash hours end at 8:00 am on Saturdays and Sundays (4/1 to 6/30 and 9/1-11/15)

T**horndike Field:** No dogs off-leash in the field, please use the fenced Thorndike Off-Leash OLRA ONLY (6:00 am - 9:00 pm)

Turkey Hill

Wellington Park

Park & Recreation Rules

- **Know when to keep your dog on-leash:**
  - Dogs are allowed off-leash ONLY in the morning hours from 6-9am, unless the area is posted "No Off-leash Dogs Allowed".
  - Keep your dog leashed when entering or exiting the park. Hours are suspended when there are special events permitted by the Rec. Dept. in the park.
  - Dogs must be leashed when the DPW crews are working in the parks, so that they don't interfere with the work.
- **Be Respectful of Park Users and Neighbors:**
  - Clean up after your dog!
  - Maintain sight and voice control of your dog. You must be able to see your dog at all times and maintain effective verbal control of your dog. You are responsible for any damage or injury your dog inflicts or receives.
  - Excessive dog barking is not allowed.
  - Dogs are not allowed in the playground areas, sand boxes, court areas or abutters' yards.
  - Dogs must not chase or disturb wildlife or enter conservation areas or sensitive open spaces, such as wetlands or planting beds.
- **Ensure Your Dog Meets the Criteria:**
  - Aggressive dogs are not permitted off-leash. Dogs that show continued aggression towards people, other dogs or wildlife must be removed immediately and should not be brought to public parks.
  - Only 2 dogs per handler may be off leash.
  - Dogs must be 4 months old to participate.
  - Dogs in heat are not allowed off-leash.
  - All dogs must be licensed, vaccinated and healthy.

Areas WITHOUT Off Leash Hours

- **All Park and Rec Lands Contiguous to School Properties -** Bishop Field, Crosby School, Crusher Lot (Ottoson), Florence Park (Dallin), Gibb's School, Lussiano Field (Thompson), Paramenter School, Peirce School Park, Stratton School, Brackett School, Hardy School, Ottoson Playing Fields, Arlington High School Fields

- **All town playgrounds-** Buzzel, Cutter, Hibbert, Locke, Magnolia, McClennen Playground & Skateboard Park, Menotomy Rocks, Mt. Gilboa, Parallel, Poet's Corner, Robbins Farm, Spy Pond, Summer Street, Waldo, Wellington

- **Properties excluded by the Park & Rec Commission-** Buck Field, McClennen Baseball Field, Scannell Field, Hibbert Street Park, Waldo Park, Resevoir Beach from June-August, Parallel Park, Thorndike Field & Magnolia Park

- **Conservation lands and community gardens-** Cooke's Hollow Park, Magnolia Community Garden, Meadowbrook Park, Mt. Gilboa, Robbins Farm Park Garden, Window on the Mystic

- **Other town properties-** Minuteman Bikepath, Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Robbins Library Grounds, Town Hall Gardens, Uncle Sam Park, Whittemore Park, DCR Alewife Brook Parkway and Whittemore-Robbins House Grounds.

- **The Park and Recreation Commission has the authority to temporarily or permanently eliminate or modify the boundaries of off-leash areas or further limit hours for any reason.**