

**Monroe County Parks & Recreation (MCPR)**  
**Karst Dog Park ☼ 2017**

mcparksandrec.org ♦ voice: 349-2800 ♦ fax: 349-2899  
501 N. Morton St., Suite 100 ♦ Bloomington, IN 47404  
(North entrance of Showers Bldg.)

**Please do not hesitate to contact Kelli, [kwitmer@co.monroe.in.us](mailto:kwitmer@co.monroe.in.us) if you have questions.  
Woof & let's all have a DOG GONE great year!**

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**What are the hours of operation?** (Daylight hours, 7 days per week)

Depending on daylight savings time, Karst Farm Park usually opens around 7:30 a.m. or 8:00 a.m.  
The dog park may close a few days per year to perform turf maintenance.

**What is my \$50 annual fee used for?**

Daily maintenance, mowing, poop & trash bags, seed, fertilizer, mulch, stone, equipment use, computer & software, electricity, water, hoses & nozzles, dog pools, chairs, benches, picnic tables, shelter, labor & administration, and trees & landscaping.

**Does my dog need to have a dog license, be vaccinated or spayed/neutered?**

Your dog does not need a city or county dog license.

The MCPR office requires a copy of your dog's vaccination records. All vaccinations must be current in order to visit the dog park. Please mail, email, fax or drop by the MCPR office any updated vaccinations.

**All dogs must be spayed or neutered.**

**Vaccinations Required:**

- Rabies
- Bordetella "Kennel Cough"
- DAPP or DHPP combination vaccination
  - Distemper
  - Hepatitis (Adenovirus)
  - Parvovirus
  - Parainfluenza

**We strongly recommend the following, but it is not required:**

- Negative stool sample for parasites
- Heartworm prevention
- Leptospirosis vaccination (please talk to your veterinarian about the benefit of this vaccination)

**May I bring a guest dog?**

Yes, as a member you may invite guest dogs free of charge.

You must follow the steps listed below for this membership perk.

- This policy will remain in effect as long as members do not abuse it.
- You are responsible for your guest dog & you must accompany the guest dog.
- Guest must fill out registration form, sign acceptance of terms, show proof of Rabies, Bordetella & DAPP vaccinations & must be spayed/neutered.
- Approximate date of visit. For example, the last week of October.
- Your guest dog's paperwork will be attached to your file.
- Examples: dog sitting, out of town visitor or friend who wants to try out the dog park with you.

**How do the Gates Open & Close?**

- The main middle gate opens by waving the black key fob in front of the white box, listen for a click & see a small green light, then push the gate open.
- **You are responsible to close & latch EVERY gate you enter.**

### **Want to find a Play Buddy?**

- Go to Facebook "Karst Dog Park" and find a play buddy.
- Dog Park standing play times to meet a play buddy:  
10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., & 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays & Sundays (day light hours).
- Post a "find a buddy note" on the dog park bulletin board.

### **What is the refund policy?**

- Prorated refunds given for very ill/injured or euthanized dogs.
- You may choose to donate your remaining membership fee to the dog park capital fund.
- If you are no longer going to use the dog park, we ask that you return your key fob so it can be recycled & reused. You may drop off your key fob at our office or in the black drop box as you enter the Dog Park. The key fob cannot be mailed in a regular business envelope.

### **What is the vehicle Smart Key problem?**

If your vehicle operates/starts with a **Smart Key**, the dog park **Key Fob** might interfere with the communication between your car and your smart key. The smart key has a chip that talks to a transponder in the ignition system of the vehicle much like the dog park key fob talks to the transponder on the gate at the dog park.

If you have a smart key, do not attach the dog park key fob on the same key ring. Very close proximity between the two key fobs might cause the vehicle not to start. Keep the fobs a couple of feet apart and you should not have any problems.

### **What are the surfaces and how accessible is the area?**

Drinking fountains, entrance/exit area, wheelchair curb cut are concrete. All gates are easy to operate and the exit gates are outfitted with crash bars. The remaining surface area is grass, dirt & stone.

### **Water & Rain?**

Water bowls are always provided. Please help keep the bowls & dog pools clean. Turn off water at the source and drain water out of hoses. The water is turned off in the winter; please bring a jug of water for your dog. During wet days, it is recommended that you bring a towel for dirty paws.

### **How can I donate to the Karst Dog Park?**

Contact Kelli at 349-2800 or [kwitmer@co.monroe.in.us](mailto:kwitmer@co.monroe.in.us) to donate funds, supplies or services for the Karst Dog Park. All donations can be made to the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Foundation, Inc. which is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

## **SAFETY TIPS:**

### **What to do to prevent a fight:**

- Pay attention to your dog and be aware of where he is and what he is doing at all times.
- Stay close enough to control or protect your dog in the face of a potential fight.
- Keep a collar on your dog at all times so you have something to grab, if needed.
- Keep your leash with you at all times.
- Leave the park. Some days, it's just a poor mix of dogs. Come back later.  
You and your dog will be better off.

### **What you can do if a fight occurs:**

- Never reach your hands into the middle of a dog fight. You may get bitten, possibly by your own dog.
- Distract the dogs and divert their attention. A blast of water from a water bottle, rattle something, a loud whistle, or a pocket air horn (point away from dog ears).
- If your dog is not in the fight, make sure he does not join in.
- If a fight occurs, control your dog and remove him to a neutral area.
- Maintain a cool head. Getting upset and yelling will only add to the frenzy.
- The orange first aid kit is attached to inside fence near the bulletin board.
- When warranted, exchange contact information with the other dog owner. If you can't because you must attend to your own dog, designate someone else to get the information.

## **What to do if you or your dog is injured in a dog fight:**

An injured dog may bite anyone nearby.

A dog fight can be violent and upsetting to everyone present

- **Attitude:**  
Even the calmest, most pleasant, well-adjusted person may become upset. Emotional behavior is automatic. Try to remain calm and as objective as possible.
- **Legal Responsibility:**  
Owners are solely liable for injuries or damage caused by their dogs. This includes injury to another dog or person, no matter how it began, who said what, or whatever. The County of Monroe, Indiana nor Monroe County Parks and Recreation Department are not responsible for injuries sustained to yourself or to your dog, nor are they responsible for other people's behavior or their dog's behavior. You use the Karst Dog Park at your own risk.
- **Exchange Information:**  
All involved parties should provide pertinent information including name, address, phone numbers and vaccination records to each other.
- **Report the Incident:**  
Minor scuffles may occur. In the case of a serious fight or injury that clearly exhibits aggressive or dangerous behavior, call Monroe County Parks & Recreation (MCPR) at 812-349-2800 to report the incident or email Kelli at [kwitmer@co.monro.in.us](mailto:kwitmer@co.monro.in.us) In the case of a bite incident, call MCPR and the Bloomington Animal Care and Control at 812-349-3492.

## **Canine Safety**

Prevent a dog fight before it happens by learning the 4P warning signs:

- **Posture:**  
A dog's body language can communicate fear, hostility or submission. Learn to read and respond to your own dog's body language, and others.
- **Packing or Dog Gang:**  
More than 4 or 5 dogs packed together can lead to trouble. Break it up before it starts by leading your dog to a neutral area a least 30 feet away. **Don't let dogs gang up on submissive dogs.** Don't let your dog gang up on dogs entering the dog park.
- **Possession:**  
Whether it's you, a ball or a treat, most dogs will protect what is theirs. If your dog is possessive do not bring items to the Dog Park that will provoke your dog to become aggressive. Be aware that your dog may be possessive of YOU and may become aggressive if YOU pet another dog.
- **Provoking:**  
If your dog is continuously annoying another dog(s) or provoking attention, it's time to leave the Dog Park.

## **Dog Parks are not a place for children or infants**

- All dogs have the potential to bite.
- This is a Dog Park. Not all dogs are child-friendly.
- A friendly, excited, or aggressive dog may knock down or trample a child.
- Herding dogs may nip at children while attempting to round them up.
- A running, squealing, or screaming child may attract a dog's attention.
- Direct eye contact is confrontational. An interested child staring into a dog's face may provoke a dog unintentionally.
- Dog owners are there to have an off leash experience with their dog. They do not need the added burden of watching out for other people's children. Owners are solely liable for injuries or damage caused by their dogs.
- It is not sufficient to ensure everyone's safety if an adult is supervising both a child/infant and a dog. This would be very dangerous if a dog fight erupts. The adult's attention would be concentrated on the child/infant and not on the dog's activities.