



POP-UP DOG PARK FAQs

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK FIELD #4



Why is the City of Ann Arbor piloting a pop-up dog park at [Veterans Memorial Park](#)?

Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation staff often receives requests for an additional dog park, particularly on the city's west side. This temporary dog park at Veterans Memorial Park serves as a pilot program, allowing us to assess both the location and community usage.

What is a pop-up dog park?

A pop-up dog park is a temporary, off-leash area for dogs. By running a pop-up dog park, city staff will be better equipped to understand the needs and impacts of this type of this location before developing a permanent site.

Why was Veterans Memorial Park Field #4 chosen?

Veterans Memorial Park Field #4 is well-suited for an enclosed off-leash dog park, as it already has much of the necessary fencing infrastructure in place. Additionally, its proximity to the park and nearby neighborhoods ensures convenient accessibility.

What are the hours of operation?

The temporary dog park will be open daily from dawn (6 a.m.) to 10 p.m. Lighting at Veterans Memorial Park Field #4 will extend usability during the winter months, with lights on from approximately 4:30-10 p.m. The park will operate from Friday, Nov. 15, through Sunday, April 20.

Why is the pilot being done in the winter months?

Veterans Memorial Park fields see minimal use during the winter, making this underutilized space an ideal choice for the first pilot location during the off-season.

How will staff evaluate the response to the pilot?

Staff plan to gather feedback in a variety of ways including:

- An online feedback survey (<https://url.a2gov.org/DogParkFeedback>)
- People counting sensor at the entrance gate
- Dog park permit data will be reviewed
- Onsite events will be hosted to gather in-person feedback

Do I need a dog park permit and how do I get it?

Yes, a dog park permit is needed for entrance. An annual off-leash dog permit is required for access to the designated off-leash areas. The permitting requirement enables the city to provide safe environments in off-leash dog play areas for users and their pets.

Temporary dog parks will be included on all dog park permits sold through the city. You can either apply online at stream.a2gov.org or visit the City of Ann Arbor Clerk's Office: Larcom City Hall, 301 E. Huron St., second floor weekdays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. **Entrance to any pop-up dog parks are included with all purchased dog park permits.**

Why is a year-round permit required for a temporary dog park?

As this is a pilot program, we aim to make access as convenient as possible for dog owners while

ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment. Requiring permits helps us understand the level of demand and interest in the facility. Additionally, permit fees help offset the costs associated with maintaining the temporary dog park. The permit process ensures that dogs using the park meet health and safety standards by requiring current rabies vaccination certificates, dog licenses and a signed waiver and release form, in line with established rules for off-leash areas. **Please note that dogs must be licensed with the city, county, or a similar municipal jurisdiction to qualify for an off-leash permit.**

Do I need to clean up after my dog?

Yes. Waste receptacles will be provided onsite; however, we will not supply bags or scoops. There will be a box where dog owners can donate bags for other park users. Respectful behavior and adherence to clean-up expectations are essential to the success of this pilot. Responsible use of the space, including cleaning up after your pet, will help us evaluate the site effectively. Staff reserve the right to close the park temporarily if issues arise with cleanliness or conduct. You can also report maintenance issues online at www.a2gov.org/A2FixIt.

What will happen to the dog park at the end of the season?

At the season's close, staff will restore the field to accommodate baseball and softball use. We will also assess the program's success to guide decisions about future dog park locations and potential recurring use.