



Dogs in Central Park

New York City's dogs love Central Park. To ensure visitors and pets alike stay safe, dog owners must follow the rules as outlined by [NYC Parks](#).

Dogs are never allowed in the following locations:

- All ballfields and recreational courts
- All playgrounds
- All sand volleyball courts
- All water bodies, streams, and ornamental fountains
- Elm islands at the Mall
- Great Lawn Oval
- Hallett Nature Sanctuary
- Nell Singer Lilac Walk
- Stephanie and Fred Shuman Running Track
- Sheep Meadow

Even during off-leash hours, dogs must always be leashed in the following locations:

- Arthur Ross Pinetum
- Bridle Path
- Cedar Hill
- Children's Glade (Great Hill area)
- Conservatory Garden
- East Green
- East Meadow Oval
- Kerbs Boathouse Plaza
- The North Woods
- The Ramble
- Shakespeare Garden
- Strawberry Fields
- Turtle Pond Lawn
- Other areas where signs requiring dogs to be leashed are posted

Dogs must be on-leash 9:00 am - 9:00 pm.
Off-leash hours are 6:00 am - 9:00 am and 9:00 pm - 1:00 am.

Visit Responsibly

Central Park's dogs and their owners are part of the vibrant community that makes the Park a special place. Help us keep the Park clean and safe by respecting these rules:

- Dogs must always be under the control of their owner.
- Dogs must have a NYC license tag and valid rabies tag.
- Dogs must not dig, chase, or harm wildlife; damage Park property; or interfere with other Park users.
- Always clean up after your dog, including dog hair that you brush off in the Park.
- Please respect signs, fences, and red flags that may indicate temporary closures due to restoration, maintenance, or weather conditions.

These rules are part of the NYC legal code; dog owners may be fined for any violation.

Get Involved

Paws is a Central Park Conservancy working group that discusses how to enhance the Central Park experience of dog owners and dogs while encouraging Park stewardship, responsible dog ownership, cooperation with other Park user groups, and an understanding of the Conservancy's role and mission. Participants in the Paws Working Group are dog owners who represent the numerous dog communities within the Park and are interested in working with the Conservancy in establishing and maintaining a productive and mutually beneficial relationship with those communities.

Visit centralparknyc.org/contact for more information about the Paws Working Group.

Map Key

- Dog Drinking Fountain
- Park Drives (Always leash dogs when on or crossing the drives. Use marked recreation lane and crosswalks.)
- Shared Bike Path
- ♿ Restrooms / Closed Winter
- ♿ Wheelchair Accessible