

CRUSE DOG PARK



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Cruse Dog Park? Cruse Dog Park is the first off-leash dog park in Springfield, MO. Officially 'unleashed' in November, 2008, the park is a six-acre, fenced facility for dogs to go off-leash to run, play, socialize and exercise. There is a four and a half-acre section for large dogs and a one and a half-acre section for small dogs.

Why should I take my dog to the Dog Park? Dog parks are a great place for your dog socialize and exercise. A socialized dog makes a better pet for you, your children, other humans and other dogs. Dog parks usually offer larger areas for dogs to play than most backyards allow, thus providing a much larger place for your pet to run off-leash in a safe environment.

Where is the Park located? The address for Cruse Dog Park is 2100 West Catalpa, Springfield, MO. The main entrance for the Park is located around the corner, on Grand just west of Kansas Expressway (enter the Walgreen's parking lot).

Can anyone use the Park? The Park is for registered users only. Annual membership is \$25 per dog with a limit of two dogs per handler. There is also a Daily Pass for those just passing through town or who wish to 'test' the park before becoming a member. The cost for a Daily Pass is \$10, with a \$10 refundable deposit for the key fob. The fee for a Daily Pass can not be used towards an Annual membership.

Where do I register for the Park? You can register at the main Park Board Administration Office, located at 1923 North Weller, or at Chesterfield Family Center, located at 2511 W. Republic Road. At the time of application, owners need to provide proof vaccinations from a licensed veterinarian for Rabies, Parvo, Distemper, and Bordetella. At that time you will receive an activated fob for the Park.

What is a fob? The fob is your keyless entry for the Park. Scanning your fob across the electronic reader at the main entry will unlock the gate to allow entry into the holding area. The gates for the small and large dog areas are not locked. You must also scan your fob on the inside reader to unlock the gate to exit. The fob allows for unlimited usage of the Park. Use your fob for your/your dog's entry & exit **only**. If someone does not have a fob or theirs does not work, have them contact the Park Board office at 864-1049. Annual fobs will be valid for twelve (12) months or as long as the dog's required vaccinations remain current. **Fob's are NOT transferrable between dog owners.**

What do I do if my fob isn't working? If your fob is not working, it has been deactivated for a reason. Either your membership has expired and you need to renew, or one of your dogs vaccinations are past due. Once we receive your renewal payment or updated shot records your fob will be reactivated. Please contact the Park Board office at 864-1049 during regular business hours (*Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., with the exception of legal municipal holiday*) to determine the reason for the deactivation.

Are there rules for the Dog Park? There are official rules and regulations for the Dog Park. A comprehensive listing of the Rules & Regulations can be found on the Park Board website (www.parkboard.org), on the Dog Park page. Paper versions are also available at the Park Board Administration Office (1923 North Weller) and at Chesterfield Family Center (2511 West Republic Road).

Can I bring my children to the Park? Cruse Dog Park is a park for dogs. Since dogs may not react well to children in a large open area, there is an age restriction. **No child under the age of 8 is allowed inside the off-leash area.** Children between the ages of 9 and 18, **must** be accompanied by an adult at all times.

If I'm new to the Park, what should I do? A visit to a dog park can be a treat for both you and your dog. Like all new experiences there may be a bit of apprehension when you and your dog(s) use the Dog Park for the first time. It might be best to introduce your dog to the park during a "low-activity" time of day so you both can become acquainted with the facility. You must keep your dog on-leash from your vehicle to the gate. After scanning your fob and entering the holding area, unleash your dog and prepare to enter either the small or large dog side of the park. If you are uncomfortable with the size and/or number of dogs ready to greet you upon entry, you may want to get their owners attention and ask them to call their dogs away from the gate to allow you access.

What do we do about dog waste? It is a privilege to have a public dog park to take your dog to, so you need to do your best to preserve this treasure. You are required to clean up after your dog and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board provides several dog waste stations both inside and outside the park for your convenience. It is a good habit to take a bag or two when you enter the park so you have one available when you need it and one to share with another park patron.

Is Cruse Dog Park supervised? The Dog Park is self-supervised. Owners are responsible for their dog(s) behavior and must be with their dog(s) at all times. Staff from the Springfield-Greene County Park Board do monitor the Park on a regular basis.

What should I do if my dog misbehaves? Despite our best efforts, sometimes dogs act up or act out. If this should occur while you are at the dog park, please leash your dog and leave the park immediately. If this behavior continues on future visits you may want to consider consulting a professional dog trainer. If you observe or your dog is a victim of aggressive behavior please contact the Park Board office at 864-1049 and speak with the Dog Park Administrator.

What are the hours of the Park? The Park is open seven (7) days a week, sun up to sun down; weather-permitting.

How can I get involved? The development of Cruse Dog Park was the brainchild of the Citizens Dog Park Committee. Working in conjunction with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, this Park took 6-years of planning, developing and fundraising. There are a variety of ways for you to get involved.

✓ **Join the Citizens Dog Park Committee**

- The Committee actively works with the Park Board in hosting events throughout the year; creating fundraising activities and future development of the Park.
- The Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at the Chesterfield Family Center located at 2511 West Republic Road
- Check the Park Board website (www.parkboard.org) for the date of the next scheduled meeting.

✓ **Volunteer for our Dog Events**

- 'Bark in the Park' held in June
 - A family-oriented event that includes the family dog. Activities include a non-competitive, guided walk, hands-on activities, costume contests and look-alike contests
- Dog Swim at Fasnicht Pool in September
 - A open swim for dogs. This is absolutely one of the most entertaining dog-related events that we do.
- DogFest at Chesterfield Park in September
 - An all-canine festival which includes commercial and non-profit vendors, demonstrations and a Dachshund Dash.

✓ **Purchase a Brick for Cruse Dog Park**

- 4x8 pavers engraved with your special message in honor or memory of your special canine companion
- Pavers are currently placed in the sidewalk leading into the Park.

✓ **Purchase a Bench for Cruse Dog Park**

- The Granite benches are used inside the Park and engraved with your personal message.

For more information about Cruse Dog Park please call 864-1049