



Town of Belmont

Recreation Department
Brandon Fitts, CTRS, CPRP, Director of Recreation
617-993-2760
recreation@belmont-ma.gov
www.BelmontRec.com



2024 Belmont Paws in the Parks Program



Welcome to the 2024 Belmont Paws in the Parks Program

Paws in the Parks is a pilot program to allow dogs on certain town playing fields. The pilot will run from April 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024. At the conclusion of the pilot we will evaluate the program and make changes as necessary. The program may also be changed at any time if circumstances warrant.

All dogs on the fields must have a current license. In addition, off-leash dogs require a Paws in the Parks permit.

Paws in the Park Off-Leash Permits

Issued by the Belmont Recreation Department and are NON-REFUNDABLE. A permit includes an off-leash tag for each dog.

All permit holders must sign a code of conduct and attend a Paws in the Parks Program orientation (approx. 15 minute video). After completing the orientation, you will receive your tags.

To Register for the Paws in the Parks Program go to www.BelmontRec.com

Paws in the Parks Off-Leash Permits are valid **ONLY** for the following locations and during hours posted by the Belmont Recreation Department:

- 🐾 Grove Street Field, 125 Grove Street
- 🐾 Pequossette (PQ) Field, 100 Maple Street
- 🐾 Town Field, 250 Beech Street
- 🐾 Winn Brook Field, 179 Cross Street

Paws in the Parks Regulations:

1. Off-leash hours are limited to the schedule posted at the fields and online at www.BelmontRec.com.
2. Regardless of any other permitted uses and times, dogs MUST be leashed when:
 - A. A permitted group is using the field (social/sports events). A permitted group is defined as a group that has reserved space and/or has a permit from the Town of Belmont, or
 - B. DPW/Field Contractors are on the field.
3. No dog, leashed or unleashed, may be on Winn Brook Field from 7:30am to 4pm on days when school is in session.
4. The Paws in the Park tag must be available to show while the dog is off-leash.
5. No dogs allowed within 50 feet of playgrounds.
6. No dogs on tennis/pickleball courts, basketball courts, or baseball fields.
7. No excessive barking.
8. No digging.
9. Handlers must have one leash per dog and no more than two dogs while visiting the park/field. Leashes must not exceed 6 feet in length.
10. Handlers must be ready to remove a dog from a park/field area quickly if necessary.
11. Handlers must maintain effective verbal control of dog(s).
12. Handlers are responsible for picking up dog waste, supplying of waste bags, and proper disposal of dog waste bags.
13. Town Bylaw §60-200 applies (see p. 3). In particular, if any person, including the Animal Control Officer, makes a complaint to the Board of Health pursuant to Bylaw §60-200(G)(4) concerning a dog with a current Paws in the Park off-leash permit, that permit may be immediately suspended and no refund of the permit fee shall be made. The permit may be reinstated in the sole discretion of the Board of Health after a hearing pursuant to Bylaw §60-200(G)(4).

Off-leash use is fully suspended on a field when:

- 🐾 The Park/Field is closed by the Town, or
- 🐾 Belmont Public School activities are taking place on the field.





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2024 Belmont Paws in the Parks Program Applicable Town Bylaws and Enforcement

§ 60-200. Pets and other animals.

C. No person who owns, keeps or controls a dog shall allow the dog to run free when not restricted to the premises of said person, except as permitted by the Board of Health. Except as otherwise provided in this section, such dogs shall be leashed and curbed when off such premises.

D. Removal of feces.

Each person who owns, keeps or controls a dog within the Town shall remove and dispose of any feces left by such dog on any sidewalk, street, park or other public area or on any private property that is not owned or lawfully occupied by such person.

(1) Each person who owns, keeps or controls a dog within the Town shall remove and dispose of any feces left by such dog on any sidewalk, street, park or other public area or on any private property that is not owned or lawfully occupied by such person.

(2) No person who owns, keeps or controls a dog within the Town shall permit such dog to be on any sidewalk, street, park or other public area unless such dog is accompanied by a person carrying a device that is suitable for picking up and containing feces, unexposed to such person and to the general public.

(3) For purposes of this subsection, feces may be disposed of only at a place suitable and regularly reserved for the disposal of human feces or otherwise designated as appropriate by the Board of Health.

(4) Subsection D(1), (2) and (3) of this subsection shall not apply to a dog accompanying any person who, by reason of a handicap, is physically unable to comply with their requirements.

G. Nuisance or dangerous dogs or other animals.

(1) No person shall permit any dog, cat or other household pet that by biting, barking, howling, scratching or crying, or in any other manner, disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood, destroys private property, endangers the safety of any person, or otherwise acts as a nuisance or dangerous dog as defined by MGL c. 140, § 136A.

(2) The Animal Control Officer, or any other Town officer tasked with the enforcement of this section, shall respond to complaints and reports of a violation of Subsection G(1).

(3) All bites by dogs, cats, other domestic animals or wild or exotic animals shall be reported to the Board of Health and the Animal Control Officer by the person bitten or by the owner or keeper of the animal, as soon as possible after the incident.

(4) Any person, including the Animal Control Officer, may make a complaint to the Board of Health, the Town's Hearing Authority pursuant to MGL c. 140, concerning a nuisance or a dangerous dog as defined by MGL c. 140, § 136A. Upon the receipt of such a complaint, the Board of Health shall conduct a public hearing to gather evidence and testimony with respect to the allegation made in the complaint. At the close of the public hearing and after deliberation, the Board of Health may dismiss the complaint, or deem the dog a nuisance or dangerous dog. If the Board of Health deems the dog a nuisance or a dangerous dog, it may order any of the remedies available to it under MGL c. 140, § 157.

I. Except as the Board of Health may otherwise permit, no dogs, except those dogs that serve as service animals as defined by regulations issued pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 CFR 35.104, will be allowed in the following areas of the Town: all cemetery land, all public school playgrounds and athletic fields and all Recreation Department playgrounds and athletic fields. Nor may any dog be allowed inside food establishments, retail businesses or public buildings.

J. Violations of this section shall be disposed of, in the discretion of the Board of Health, either in the manner provided in § 40-220E or, if applicable, pursuant to the provisions of MGL c. 140, § 173A. For all violations of this section other than violations of the licensing subsections, a noncriminal citation will be issued on the following schedule: first offense, \$50; second offense, \$100; third offense, \$300; fourth and each succeeding offense, \$500. Any violation of the licensing subsections shall result in a fine of \$50 per such violation and, for violations continuing 30 days past licensing deadlines, an additional fine of \$100 per such violation.

The Paws in the Parks regulations are issued by the Belmont Select Board acting as the Board of Park Commissioners.

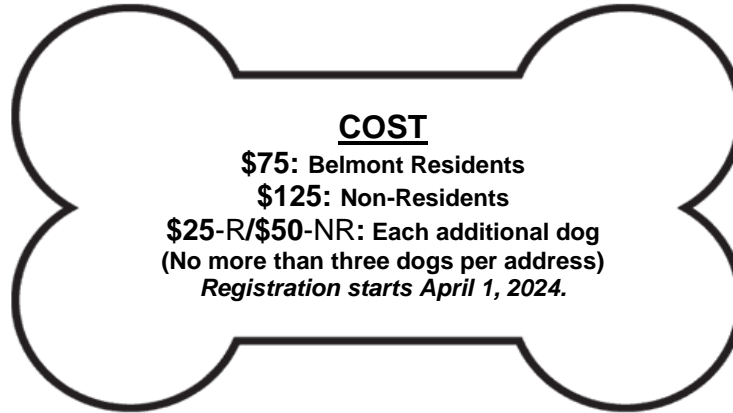


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2024 Belmont Paws in the Parks Program



DATE: _____

Applicant Information:

OWNER(S) NAME: _____

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

PET'S NAME: _____ LICENSE # _____ PERMIT # ISSUED _____

BREED: _____ COLOR: _____ SEX: _____

Agreement of Off-Leash Permit Regulations:

I have carefully read Belmont's Paws in the Parks Program Rules and Regulations (as provided as part of this registration packet) and agree to abide by them. I realize that non-compliance of the Paws in the Parks Program Rules and Regulations may result in Non-Criminal Citations and/or Revocation of Paws in the Parks Permit.

Applicants Signature: _____