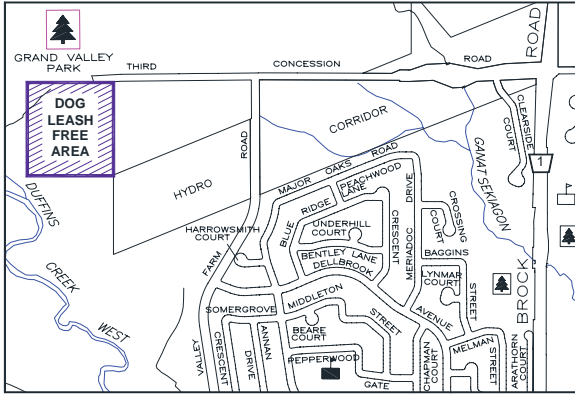


Grand Valley Leash Free Area

An important part of many families is the family dog. To recognize and respond to the legitimate needs of dog owners the City of Pickering has designated a leash free area at Grand Valley Park, located on the Third Concession, west of Valley Farm Road.



Inside the Park

There are **two designated leash free areas located** within the park.

1. The **main leash free area** is the fenced area located west of the parking lot at the bottom of the hill. This is the primary park area used by visitors. It is important that you **leash** your dog when walking to this area. Once inside the leash free area, you may unleash your dog.
2. The **smaller leash free area** is for those with mobility issues or for those with small dogs. This is the gated and fenced area adjacent and close to the parking lot as some users may have difficulty accessing the main off-leash area at the bottom of the hill.

Leash Free Area Rules

Obey all posted park rules, which are in place for the safety of your dogs and other users.

Keep your dog on a leash until you are inside the off-leash area. This includes the parking lot and walking down the hill. Dogs are not permitted to be off-leash in any area of the park except the designated leash free area.

Up to date licensing of your dog is a requirement to use the leash free area. All dogs should also be wearing their licence tag.

Please do not bring small children inside the leash free area. Dogs that are running fast in a chasing game can accidentally run into your child. As well, some dogs may also have strong prey drives or may not be socialized to small children.

At the first sign of aggression, please remove your dog from the leash free area.

It is inappropriate for your dog to body-slam, mouth/nip and jump or mount people or dogs while in the park. These behaviours can initiate a potentially harmful situation and owners should remove any dog(s) displaying these behaviours.

Barking should be kept to a reasonable level. Occasional and playful barks are acceptable.

Dogs that are incessantly barking while standing and watching other dogs are not being social. These dogs are usually anxious and may not be the best candidates for repeat visits.

Leash Free Area Rules (cont'd)

Limit your use of toys or food treats

Limiting the use of toys and treats will help to avoid dog-to-dog conflict.

Remove dogs that play too rough.

Please leash and remove your dog if its play is making other dogs or dog owners uncomfortable.

Dogs that have been declared dangerous or aggressive are prohibited

Keeping Dogs and People Safe

Not all dogs are good candidates to take into a leash free area.

A good "dog-park" dog is

- well socialized to people and dogs
- dependable with basic manners such as come, sit, down, leave-it and stay
- healthy
- spayed or neutered

Please do not bring the following dogs into the leash free area

- puppies under the age of four months
- females in heat
- injured, stressed or older dogs with hip dysplasia or arthritis
- dogs with illnesses, communicable diseases, diarrhea, cough or parasites
- dogs with serious behaviour problems in relation to other dogs or people
- dogs who wear a prong, choke, and electronic collars

Help enforce the rules and keep Pickering's Leash Free Area safe and clean.

Please do not allow your dog to dig holes! Uneven surfaces can be a trip hazard. If your dog digs a hole, please fill it immediately.

Always scoop your dog's poop! A dog waste diversion station has been provided adjacent to the parking area. Please use the bags provided for your convenience and place all animal waste into these receptacles.

Please help keep your leash free area clean. Leave the site in a better condition than you found it.

Pick up trash and anything else on the ground that may end up in a dog's mouth. Ask yourself, "Would I want my dog to eat this?"



Your Cooperation Is Required

Owners and dogs must comply with the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law whether on or off-leash.

A maximum of three (3) dogs per owner/handler are permitted in the park both in leashed and off-leash areas.

An owner/handler, aged 16 or older, must be present and supervising their dog(s) at all times.

Have your dog settled and under control; and attached to its leash before letting it out of your vehicle. Take your time getting your dog into the dog park. Moving vehicles and excited dogs do not mix!

Leash Free Area Working Group

A volunteer working group meets quarterly each year to address any issues relating to the Grand Valley Park leash free area.

The group also makes recommendations for improvements to the facility and is responsible for the general upkeep; observing the behaviour of dogs and owners using the area, informing pet owners of the rules that govern the use of the leash free area and advising Animal Services if enforcement of the rules is required

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact:
animalservices@pickering.ca

Pickering Leash Free Area

Grand Valley Park



Hours of Operation: dawn to dusk



pickering.ca/animals