



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Elmo & Rosalea Marris Memorial Dog Park? The Dog Park is a 1 ½ acre fenced, off-leash dog recreation area for dogs to run, play, socialize and exercise off-leash. There are separate areas for small and large dogs.

Why should I take my dog to the Dog Park? Dog parks are a great place for your dog to 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 Dog Park located? The Elmo & Rosalea Marris Memorial Dog Park is located at Stockstill Park at 524 Stockstill Lane, Branson, MO 65616.

What are the hours of the Dog Park? The Park is open seven (7) days a week, sunrise until sunset, weather-permitting. Any changes to the hours for any reason will be posted at the park.

Is there a fee to be a member? Yes, annual membership for residents is \$25 per year + \$5 per additional dog. Non-resident is \$30 per year + \$10 per additional dog. Maximum of two dogs per handler. There is also a daily pass for visitors to our area or those wanting to try the park before coming a member. You may purchase a day pass for \$5 or \$10 for a three day pass. Maximum of two dogs per handler.

Why is a membership required for the Dog Park? A membership based park was chosen to address safety by tracking to ensure that all dogs admitted to the dog park have current vaccinations before being admitted. In addition, membership fees will provide necessary revenue for on-going operating expenses and allow for future upgrades to the Dog Park.

What do I need to do to become a member? You can register at the Branson RecPlex located at 1500 Branson Hills Parkway. At the time of application, owners need to provide proof of 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 unlimited usage of the Park. Use your fob for you and your dogs entry & exit **only**. If someone does not have a fob or their fob does not work, have them contact the Branson Rec Plex at 335-2368. Annual fobs will be valid for twelve (12) months or as long as the dog's required vaccinations remain current. **Fobs 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 Branson Rec Plex at 335-2368 to determine the reason for the deactivation.

Are there certain breeds of dog excluded from membership? No, all dogs that meet all membership requirements (have current shot records) are welcome in the dog park. If any dog becomes aggressive, it's owner must remove the dog immediately.

What are the Dog Park rules? Dog park rules and etiquette are posted at the entrance of the dog park, are on our website at www.bransonparksandrecreation.com and are available as part of the annual dog park membership application, When you sign the membership application, you also sign indicating that you agree to abide by the dog park rules.

Can I bring my children to the Park? Elmo & Rosalea Marrs Memorial 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 8 and 18, **must** be accompanied by an adult at all times.

If I'm new to the Dog 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 the 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 hold 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 owner attention and ask them to call their dogs away from the gate to allow you access.

What should I do if my dog seems stressed about entering the Dog Park? Know your dog and learn to read your dog's body language. A dog's body language can communicate fear, hostility or submission. If you are uncomfortable about letting your dog in the off-leash area, leave the park. You may choose to take your dog on a walk on the adjacent trails until their body language changes.

Can I keep my dog on a leash? Please unleash your dog in the entry area before you enter either the small dog or large dog area. Mixing leashed and unleashed dogs commonly causes problems. Leashed dogs often feel threatened by the free dogs and will display provocative body language and defensive behavior. If you are uncomfortable about letting your dog off-leash, please do not visit the park.

Can I bring other types of pets to the Dog Park other than my dog(s)? No. The dog park is specifically designed for dogs only.

If my dog is not neutered or spayed can I still use the Dog Park? Yes. But you must watch your dog very closely.

If my dog is in season, can I use the Dog Park? No. You are not permitted to use the dog park when your dog is near or in heat. Female dogs in heat can cause aggression in male dogs.

Can my new puppy come to the Dog Park? No. Puppies under 4 months of age should not be brought to the dog park. At this young age, they have not received all their vaccinations and their immune systems aren't strong enough to fight off bacteria, etc. they may encounter. After your puppy has been vaccinated, they are eligible to register and receive a membership.

What do we do about dog waste? You must clean up after your dog immediately. Waste bags are provided and must be disposed of in the waste receptacles provided. It is 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.

Will water be available for my dog? Fresh water is available for your dogs only. Humans should bring their own water.

Can I bring food or dog treats into the Dog Park? No food or dog treats of any kind are allowed in the park as it can prompt aggressive behavior between dogs.

Is the Dog Park supervised? No, it will be up to the users of the dog park to police it and make sure that the rules are being followed. Owners are responsible for their dog(s) behavior and must be with their dog(s) at all times.

What can I do while my pet is using the Dog Park? You must remain with your pet in the Dog Park (you cannot drop your dog off and leave). Benches and a pavilion with picnic tables are provided for watching your dog play, exercise or socialize with other dogs.

What is I see someone breaking the rules? The Dog Park is self policing. If a rule is broken, many times it is because people are unaware of the rules. It is up to all of us to educate and bring the rules and regulations to their attention. If you see someone not abiding by the rules (i.e. forgets to pick up poop or is eating or smoking in the park), politely introduce yourself, remind them of the rules, and thank them when they comply. If the problem persists, please alert staff at the Branson Park's Department.

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.

What should I do about an aggressive dog? First, remove your dog from the situation. Second (if it is safe) politely tell the dog's owner that you feel their dog is aggressive and ask them to take action to control their dog or leave the park. If you do not feel safe or a polite request has no effect, call the Branson Park office at (417) 335-2368 or Taney County Animal Control at (417) 332-0172. It is up to users of the Dog Park to police each other in a friendly manner to keep the dog park safe for all.

Can people or dogs get hurt at a Dog Park? Unfortunately, yes. Dogs do not always behave in ways we understand. That is why everyone should act responsibly with their dog and respect the rights of other people and dogs. Familiarizing yourself with the dog park rules is a good first step towards proving a safe experience. If a bite does occur, call the Taney County Animal Control at (417) 332-0172.

Can my membership be revoked? Negative changes in your dog's behavior, not providing up-to-date health records or licenses for your dog, dog aggression, or misuse of the Dog park by you or your family members can result in membership being revoked.

For more information about Elmo & Rosalea Marrs Memorial Dog Park please call 335-2368.