



New Policy: Roberts Property Off-Leash Dog Park Rules

From: Dr. Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services

To: Policy Committee, Board of Park Commissioners

Approved: 5/20/2026

The purpose of this policy is to codify the existing rules in place for the use of the Roberts Property Off-Leash Dog Park.

General Use Rules:

1. All dogs must wear a collar with name, current license, and proof rabies vaccination.
2. For safety, animals other than dogs, aggressive dogs, females in heat, sick dogs, and dogs younger than six months are prohibited.
3. Bristol Animal Control should be called immediately at 860-584-3087 in the event that a dog bites a person in the park.
4. Dogs must be off-leash upon entering the off-leash area.
 - a. Leashed dogs often feel threatened by off-leash dogs leading to aggressive behavior.
 - b. People looking to walk trails with their leashed dog should try the trails at Rockwell Park or Birge Pond.
5. Handlers must keep dogs within eyesight and under verbal control for the safety of others.
 - a. Dog handlers must closely supervise their dogs and be within view.
 - b. Dogs should be limited to two per adult.
6. Bagging and disposing of dog waste in the containers provided is required.
 - a. Dogs must be cleaned up after. Run-off from waste can introduce bacteria and nutrients into the environment and spread disease.
7. Dogs must be kept on the trails.
 - a. Roberts Property is home to a variety of animals - including endangered species - that live, eat, and nest in the shrubby areas.
8. All dogs must be leashed in the parking lot.
 - a. Out of courtesy for the neighbors and to protect dogs from cars, dog shall be leashed in the parking lot.

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