



Dogs in the East Bay Regional Parks

Safety Tips and Rules

East Bay 
Regional Park District
www.ebparks.org



Join Us!

The East Bay Regional Park District has an active Volunteer Trail Safety Patrol (VTSP) on the trails answering questions, assisting park users, and being aware of park activity. VTSP welcomes new volunteers and even has a Companion Dog Patrol program. Call 510-690-6580 or www.parkpatrol.org.

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1-800-EBPARKS • www.ebparks.org

Cover photo: Ron C. Stanley

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Healthy Parks 
Healthy People

Photo: Kevin Fox

Welcome

We welcome you and your dogs in the parks, and invite you to be part of our Healthy Parks Healthy People initiative.

The East Bay Regional Park District remains one of the few public open space agencies in the nation that permits dogs off leash, under voice control, on hundreds of miles of trails.

To make our trails and parks enjoyable for everyone, we ask all park users to be courteous and observe our guidelines.

- Carry a leash at all times (under 6 feet in length) for each dog.
- Dogs must remain on leash in all parking lots and developed areas such as picnic sites. Each park is unique so please follow the rules and signs posted.
- Dogs must remain on leash for at least 200 feet from every trail entrance. This provides a “cooling off” period for dogs excited to be outdoors. It also alleviates bottlenecks at gate and trail entrances.
- Dogs must be leashed on all trails in Serpentine Prairie of Redwood Regional Park including a portion of the Dunn Trail.
- Off-leash dogs must be under voice control. This means they must be near you and quickly come to your side when you call them. If you cannot see them, they are not under voice control.
- Friendly dog play is fine with owner’s permission. No running at or jumping on people or other dogs. Many people are afraid of dogs.
- No chasing wildlife or other animals.
- Clean up waste: always carry a bag and dispose of it in a trash can.

Point Isabel Regional Shoreline is an exception to the leash laws and has its own posted rules regarding dogs.

Some parklands and wetlands are restricted areas to protect the health and diversity of our wildlife population. Please observe posted signs, and don’t let dogs enter sensitive areas.



Health and Safety

- Watch for heat stroke (dogs don’t sweat). Restrict exercise in the heat of the day, allow your dog to cool down, and provide adequate drinking water.
- Carry drinking water for you and your dog. Water from streams or ponds may contain harmful bacteria or parasites.
- Check for ticks after being outdoors. Ticks carry a variety of diseases that dogs—and people—can catch.
- Foxtails are painful and can mean an expensive trip to the vet. Keeping your dog in sight and out of weeds reduces the risk.
- Distemper is natural in wildlife populations. Ensure your dogs are vaccinated, and keep them away from skunks, raccoons, coyotes and other wildlife, living or dead.
- Cattle-grazing helps keep our parklands healthy and reduces wildfire risk. If you encounter cattle, it’s best to leash your dogs and walk around (not through) them.

Your dogs depend on you to keep them safe and healthy!

Other Visitors

Dogs, people, bicyclists and equestrians can share the benefits of our East Bay Regional Parks, enjoying exercise and socialization on our multiple-use trails.

Keep our equestrian friends safe!

Please use extra caution when approaching equestrians; some are just learning to ride, and some horses may be new to our trail system.

Horseback riders have the right-of-way on all trails. Please step to the side of the trail as they pass. We recommend that you leash all dogs and keep them close to your side; cyclists should pull over and stop riding as they pass.



New rules effective 2012. Park District rules, including those pertaining to dogs in parks, are administered under Ordinance 38. You can see full text of Ordinance 38 on the District’s website at www.ebparks.org/activities/ord38. For more information, please ask a park ranger, a Volunteer Trail Safety Patrol member, or a District police officer. Violators can be cited.