



DOGS IN CENTRAL PARK

New York City's dogs love Central Park. To ensure visitors and pets alike stay safe, dog owners must follow the rules as outlined by [NYC Parks](#).

Dogs are never allowed in the following locations:

- All ballfields and recreational courts
- All playgrounds
- All sand volleyball courts
- All water bodies, streams, and ornamental fountains
- Elm islands at the Mall
- Great Lawn Oval
- Hallett Nature Sanctuary
- Nell Singer Lilac Walk
- Stephanie and Fred Shuman Running Track
- Sheep Meadow

Dogs must be on-leash 9:00 am–9:00 pm. Off-leash hours are 6:00 am–9:00 am and 9:00 pm–1:00 am.

Even during off-leash hours, dogs must always be leashed in the following locations:

- Arthur Ross Pinetum
- Bridle Path
- Children's Glade (Great Hill area)
- Conservatory Garden
- East Green
- East Meadow Oval
- Kerbs Boathouse Plaza
- The North Woods
- The Ramble
- Shakespeare Garden
- Strawberry Fields
- Turtle Pond Lawn
- West 86–90th Street Lawn
- Other areas where signs requiring dogs to be leashed are posted

VISIT RESPONSIBLY

Central Park's dogs and their owners are part of the vibrant community that makes the Park a special place. Help us keep the Park clean and safe by respecting these rules:

- Dogs must always be under the control of their owner.
- Dogs must have a NYC license tag and valid rabies tag.
- Dogs must not dig, chase, or harm wildlife; damage Park property; or interfere with other Park users.
- Always clean up after your dog, including dog hair that you brush off in the Park.
- Please respect signs, fences, and red flags that may indicate temporary closures due to restoration, maintenance, or weather conditions.

These rules are part of the NYC legal code; dog owners may be fined for any violation.

WHY ARE THESE REGULATIONS IN PLACE?

The Conservancy staff works tirelessly to support flourishing Park plant life and wildlife, and we're dedicated to protecting essential ecosystems found in the Park's garden beds, root zones around trees, and lawns from heavy foot (and paw) traffic.

We appreciate your thoughtfulness and consideration as we work together to keep Central Park a safe space for all species—our human and canine visitors, as well as the wildlife and plant life that live here.

KEY

- Park Drive**
(Always leash dogs when on or crossing the drives. Use marked recreation lane and crosswalks.)
- Shared Bike Path**
- Dog Drinking Fountain**
- Emergency Call Box or Dial 911**

- Visitor Information**
- Year-round Restroom**
- Seasonal Restroom**