

Madison Park Rangers enforce various rules and ordinances related to dogs in parks.

These include:

- 7.322: Failure to remove animal waste (\$187)
- 8.19(1): Dogs prohibited in certain areas (\$100)
- 23.32(1): Dogs and cats not permitted to run at large (\$124)
- 23.32(2): Dog at large permit conditions (dog park violation) (\$40)
- 8.4: Preservation of conservation parks (\$187)

#### *Failure to remove animal waste*

Rangers have the authority to issue tickets for this offense, but rarely if ever witness the offense occurring.

#### *Dogs prohibited in certain areas*

Dogs are currently prohibited from most Madison parks. Rangers do not have the resources to enforce this prohibition adequately. Because it is so common to see people responsibly walking dogs on leash where they are prohibited, Rangers rarely take enforcement action when they observe people in violation unless there are other concerns related to public safety or additional violations.

Dogs are prohibited from all city beaches, playgrounds, and park shelters, even within parks where dogs are otherwise permitted. When Rangers observe these violations, they intervene so that the dog is removed from the beach, playground, or park shelter.

#### *Dog at large*

Dogs are only permitted to be off leash within eight designated off-leash dog parks. Rangers are required to contact everyone they observe with a dog off leash outside of these designated areas, as a dog off leash is considered a public safety concern. Every time a Ranger contacts someone with a dog off leash, they take identifying information from the person in violation and document the encounter, whether they issue a warning or a citation. They also check through past records to see if the person has been previously contacted. If someone is contacted multiple times, they are issued a ticket. Rangers did not begin documenting dog off leash warnings until technological advances allowed them to efficiently do so, beginning in 2018.

#### *Dog at large permit conditions*

Rangers enforce dog park permit conditions within dog parks. Rangers routinely check to ensure that those using the dog parks have the proper dog park permit, license, and vaccinations.

#### *Preservation of conservation parks*

Rangers routinely enforce rules of conservation parks. One of the rules of conservation parks is that dogs are prohibited. Rangers address violations of this rule when they observe them.

Please note – Service animals are allowed in parks.

*Complaints*

Park Rangers document all complaints related to dogs off leash in parks, and encourage citizens to call when they observe violations. Tracking began in June of 2019, and so far there have been 30 complaints added to the list. One of Rangers' priority patrol tasks is visiting the parks that have had recent complaints for dogs off leash to attempt to contact those in violation to educate and correct the violation. With a maximum of three Rangers on shift at any given time, and 270+ parks, Rangers are not always able to respond to incidents as they are occurring. Often by the time a Ranger gets to the vicinity of the reported violation, they have left the area.

| <b>Year<sup>1</sup></b>               | <b>2016</b>     | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Dog at large - citation</b>        | 182             | 194         | 52          |
| <b>Dog at large - warning</b>         | Not Tracked     | Not Tracked | 304         |
| <b>Conservation Park</b>              | 1               | 0           | 1           |
| <b>Dog where prohibited</b>           | 1               | 1           | 0           |
| <b>Dog at Large Permit Conditions</b> | 85 <sup>2</sup> | 39*         | 36*         |

<sup>1</sup> Data is shown for complete years only. 2019 will be added once the year is complete.

<sup>2</sup> This is the total number of citations written for this year. Please note that some citations are converted to a warning after they are issued. In 2016, 45 of the citations were converted to a warning. In 2017, 20 were converted to a warning and in 2018, two were converted to a warning.

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