



# City of Blaine

10801 Town Square Drive NE  
Blaine, MN 55449-8101  
[www.ci.blaine.mn.us](http://www.ci.blaine.mn.us)

11/12/13

Dear Park Board,

I've done the additional research you requested. I also conferred with City Attorney Pat Sweeney who suggested the following change from my original suggested ordinance:

*Sec. 54-74. Dogs to be kept under restraint*

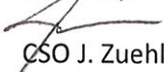
*All dogs, while on designated Blaine city park land or open space, shall be kept controlled on a leash no longer than eight feet in length. Dogs shall only be allowed without a physical restraint in City designated "off-leash areas".*

Mr. Sweeney believed the mention of a capable person left too much open to interpretation. He also believes the City's current definition of "restraint" makes the Dog at Large ordinance unenforceable.

I've attached 25 city ordinances from around the metro area, including cities surrounding Blaine that have ordinances in their Parks chapter that require dogs to be on a physical leash.

And finally, I spoke with an attorney from the League of Minnesota Cities to inquire about civil liability regarding dogs in City parks. I was told that although anyone can file a civil suit against the City for most any reason, it's unlikely that if brought to trial, they would find in the plaintiff's favor.

Sincerely,

  
CSO J. Zuehlke #40

CSO Supervisor

Blaine Police Department

## Dog at Large in Parks Ordinances

### *Coon Rapids –*

10-418 Domestic Animals. No person in a park shall bring a dog or other domestic animal into areas other than automobile parking concourses and walks immediately adjacent thereto, and in such other areas as may be clearly marked by signs bearing the words "Domestic Animals Permitted in this Area." Nothing herein shall be construed as permitting the running of dogs at large. All dogs in those areas where such animals are permitted shall be restrained at all times on adequate leashes not greater than eight feet in length.

### *Lino Lakes –*

#### 301.15 UNATTENDED ANIMALS.

No person shall allow any animal, of any sort, to go unattended or without physical restraint in any public park or public grounds.

### *Moundsview –*

a. No person owning, being in custody, or having control of an animal, whether wild, pet or domestic, may cause or allow such animal to roam or be at large in any open space site.

### *Fridley –*

#### 508.22. DOGS

No person shall be permitted to take any dog into any park unless it is led by a suitable leash and in no case shall any person allow or bring any dog owned or attended by such person into any park waters or into any bird or animal refuge or upon any skating rink or in any park building whether the dog is leashed or otherwise.

### *Shoreview –*

401.060 Animals. No person who owns, controls or harbors a domestic animal of any description shall permit such animal to be within a recreational area unless on an adequate leash and accompanied by a person capable of controlling such animal. No person who owns or is in control of a non-domestic animal, including but not limited to horses, shall permit such animal to be within a recreational area.

### *Roseville –*

K. No dogs shall be allowed except on leash, cord, or chain not more than six feet in length. This subsection does not apply to service animals accompanying a disabled person.

*Andover –*

K. Pets And Animals:

1. Leashed Animals: All domestic animals (such as dogs, cats and similar animals) must be kept leashed
- 2 . Exception: Dogs are allowed to be unleashed in a designated and/or authorized municipal or county dog park area. (Amended Ord. 402, 12-21-10)

*Columbia Heights –*

10.201 PROHIBITED CONDUCT ON PARK PROPERTY - (L) No person shall be permitted to take any pet into any park unless it is led by a suitable leash, and in no case shall any person allow or bring any dog owned or attended by him upon any bathing beach or into any park waters, or upon any skating rink, or in any park building whether the dog is leashed or otherwise, unless so authorized in writing by the Public Works Director.

*Saint Anthony –*

(J) Unattended animals. No dog or other animal shall be allowed to go unattended without physical restraint in any park.

*Brooklyn Center –*

Section 13-112 ANIMALS TO BE LEASHED. No person shall allow his dog or other domestic animal in a public park or open space without being effectively restrained by chain or leash. No person shall allow defecations from his dog or domestic animal to remain deposited upon City parks and open spaces.

*Crystal –*

Subd. 11. Dogs. Dogs in parks must be effectively leashed by a leash not in excess of six feet in length. Persons conducting leashed dogs must have in their possession suitable utensils for the removal of animal excrement and must promptly and effectively remove all excrement deposited by the animal under their control.

*Stillwater –*

Subd. 7.

Dogs and pets are permitted in all City of Stillwater public parks, except Teddy Bear Park, subject to the regulations and restrictions set forth in City Code, Section 27-1 (At large means off the owner's premises and not under the control of the owner or a member of his immediate family either by leash, cord or chain, or similar physical restraint.)

*Woodbury –*

- (a) No person who owns or has custody or control of any animal shall cause or allow such animal to roam or be at large in any public site or open space except in areas specifically designated for pet exercise and training
- (d) No person in custody of any animal shall allow the animal to disturb, harass or interfere with other public site or open space users or their property

*Eagan –*

Bring any dog, cat or other creature unless caged or kept on a leash not more than six feet in length. This clause shall not apply to any dog within an off-leash dog area, provided the following requirements are met:

1. The owner of the dog is present within the confines of the off-leash dog area;
2. The owner of the dog is within close enough proximity to the dog to be able to physically restrain the dog when necessary;
3. An off-leash dog area permit for the dog has been issued by the city and is valid and in effect for the current calendar year;
4. The dog is wearing the city-issued collar for its off-leash dog area permit;
5. The owner of the dog and the dog are in compliance with all city park regulations for the off-leash dog area;
6. No person shall bring a dog declared by the city or any other jurisdiction as a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog, defined elsewhere in this chapter, into an off-leash dog area;
7. The dog has not been ordered by a police officer or animal control officer to be removed from the off-leash dog area.

*Apple Valley –*

(L) Domestic animals. No person shall bring any animal into a park unless the animal is leashed or inside a motor vehicle or cage. Animal owners or their handlers shall remove any excreta dropped by their animals.

*Burnsville –*

8-6-10: ANIMALS:

(A) Where animals are permitted, they shall be restricted at all times by a suitable leash not exceeding six feet (6') in length and under command of the owner or custodian.

(B) No person shall permit a dog or other animal to disturb, harass or interfere with or endanger any visitor or visitor's property. No person shall tether and leave unattended any dog or animal to a tree, plant, building or park equipment.

(C) Any person having the custody or control of any dog or animal shall have the duty to immediately remove any feces left by such animal in any park and to dispose of such feces in a sanitary manner. It shall furthermore be the duty of each person having custody or control of any dog or domestic animal in a park to have in such person's possession a device or equipment for the picking up and removing of animal feces. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a guide dog accompanying a blind person or to a dog when used in police or rescue activities. (Ord. 276, 6-17-1985)

#### *Lakeville –*

##### **A. Restraint Of Dogs:**

1. No person shall permit a dog owned by him or her or under his or her care to be at large within the city.

2. No person shall permit a dog owned by him or her or under his or her care to be in a city park or on a city street, trail, or sidewalk unless controlled by a leash not exceeding twenty five feet (25') in length, except dogs that have passed the canine good citizen test certification program or its approved equivalent are permitted to be under voice control of a dog handler, except when a pedestrian approaches within one hundred feet (100'), at which time the dog must be immediately recalled and brought under close control until the pedestrian retreats by one hundred feet (100'). The canine good citizen test certification, or an approved equal, must be kept current and presented each year when applying for a dog license.

3. In dog exercise and training areas designated by the city, dogs must be under voice control when not under close control, must be licensed by the city of Lakeville, must remain within the designated area, and must comply with the rules for use of the area.

4. In Ritter Farm park, all dogs, including dogs that have passed the canine good citizen test certification program, must be under close control. (Ord. 680, sec. 3, 11-20-2000, eff. 6-1-2001)

#### *Maple Grove –*

(10)*Animals.* No person shall take or allow to be taken upon any park property any domestic animal, including, but not limited to, a dog, cat, horse or any other animal owned, harbored, kept by, or in the custody of any person, except as permitted in chapter 6

*Under restraint and restrained mean any one or more of the following:*

*1) The animal is controlled by a leash not exceeding six feet in length, by a reel type leash, or by an electronic control collar.*

*(2) The animal is within a vehicle parked or being driven.*

*(3) The animal is within the property limits of its owner.*

*Minnetonka –*

2. With the exception of seeing-eye and police dogs, dogs and cats are not permitted within a beach area, nature center area, refuge area, picnic area, and park building, and on any developed, improved or maintained area of turf, asphalt, and hard surface, and in any other unauthorized area. In areas that are not improved and not maintained, a dog or cat must be kept under human control either by a leash or voice command. On all trails, a dog or cat must be maintained on a leash no longer than six feet in length

*St Paul –*

a) Animals restricted. Save and except upon special permission of the director, no quadruped or other animal except those placed in the park by the authority of the director, or horses with the police horse patrol while in performance of their duty, and excepting dogs accompanying their owners or other persons having charge thereof and restrained by a chain or leash, shall be conducted into, ridden or driven in the park or parkways or designated recreation areas, or be allowed to remain therein. A dog may be unrestrained by a leash or chain in an area of the city parks system which has been designated and posted as an off-leash dog area, subject to the rules and regulations for such areas. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no person shall take, allow or release, into or in any park or off-leash dog area, a dog which has:

(1) Been designated as either potentially dangerous or dangerous under sections 200.12(d)—(g) of the Legislative Code;

(2) Is not licensed by the city or another jurisdiction having similar licensing requirements; or

(3) Has been excluded from the particular dog leash area or the park in which such area is located either for violation of rules and regulations promulgated by the director or under section 170.10(e) of the Legislative Code.

*Minneapolis –*

(a) General Rule. No person shall be permitted to take any dog or other domestic animal into any park; unless the dog or domestic animal is restricted at all times by suitable leash not exceeding eight (8) feet in length and under command of owner or custodian. In no case shall any person allow or bring any dog or other domestic animals owned or attended by such person upon any bathing area or into any bird or animal refuge or upon any skating rink or in any park building or into any park waters, whether the animal is leashed or otherwise. Any person having the custody or control of any dog or domestic animal shall have the duty to immediately remove any feces left by such animal on any park and to dispose of such feces in a sanitary manner. It shall furthermore be the duty of each person having custody or control of any dog or domestic animal on a park to have in such person's possession a device or equipment for the picking up and removal of animal feces.

*Brooklyn Park –*

B - Pets in Parks

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

1. Bring a pet into a park unless caged or kept on a leash not more than 6 feet in length.
2. Permit a pet under his/her control to disturb, harass or interfere with any park visitor, a park visitor's property or park employee.
3. Tether any animal to a tree, plant, building or park equipment.
4. Have custody or control of any dog or domestic pet in a park without possessing and using an appropriate device for cleaning up pet feces and disposing of the feces in a sanitary manner.

*Champlin –*

Sec. 42-30. - Domestic animals/pets.

Except as otherwise provided in Minn. Stats. § 363A.19, and Minn. Stats. § 256C.02, no person in a park shall bring a dog or other domestic animal or pet into park areas where there are signs indicating that domestic animals or pets are not permitted. Domestic animals/pets must be under control at all times. Nothing herein shall be construed as permitting the running of domestic animals and pets at large. All domestic animals and pets shall be restrained at all times on adequate leashes not greater than six feet in length. Persons conducting leashed domestic animals or pets must have in their possession suitable utensils for the removal of animal excrement and shall promptly and effectively remove all such excrement deposited by the domestic animal or pet under their control.

*Cottage Grove –*

F. Pets And Animals:

1. It shall be unlawful and a misdemeanor to permit a domestic animal to run at large, whether or not the owner is present, in city parks. Dogs or cats must be continuously under restraint on a leash and accompanied by a person reasonably able and effectively restraining the dog or cat. Unleashing of dogs is allowed within the boundaries of the public off leash dog park and is subject to the posted rules of the park which includes the owner having verbal or physical command over the dog

*Albertville –*

N. Dogs: No dogs shall be allowed in any of the parks except on a leash, and no owner or person in custody of a dog shall suffer or permit the dog to defecate upon public property without immediately removing the excrement and disposing of it in a sanitary manner