



Town of Belmont

Recreation Department
Brandon Fitts, CTRS, CPRP, Director of Recreation
617-993-2760
recreation@belmont-ma.gov
www.BelmontRec.com



2025 Belmont Paws in the Parks Programs



Welcome to the 2025 Belmont Paws in the Parks Program

The 2025 Paws in the Parks program is a pilot to allow off-leash dogs on certain town playing fields that runs from January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025. At the conclusion of the pilot, we will evaluate the program and make changes as necessary.

Permit Requirements

1. Dogs must have a current license.
2. Paws in the Parks permits are issued by the Belmont Recreation Department and are NON-REFUNDABLE. A permit includes a tag for each dog that can worn by the dog or attached to the leash. To register for the Paws in the Parks Program go to www.BelmontRec.com
3. All permit holders must sign a code of conduct and attend a Paws in the Parks Program orientation (15-ish minute zoom). After completing the orientation, you will receive your tags.

To Register for the Paws in the Parks Program go to www.BelmontRec.com

All license holders must sign a code of conduct.

All registrants must show proof of a valid Dog License issued from city/town of residence to register. All registrants must attend a Paws in the Parks Program orientation (15-ish minute zoom). Information will be sent upon registration.

After completing an orientation, you will receive your tags.

Paws in the Parks Permits are valid ONLY for the following locations:

- 🐾 Town Field, 250 Beech Street
- 🐾 Grove Street Field, 125 Grove Street
- 🐾 Winn Brook Field, 179 Cross Street
- 🐾 Pequossette (PQ) Field, 100 Maple Street

Paws in the Parks Permit Regulations:

Regardless of any other permitted uses, dogs **MUST** be leashed when:

- A. A permitted group is using the field (social/sports events)
- B. DPW/Field Contractors are on the field.

Rules

1. The Paws in the Park tag must be available to show while the dog is off-leash.
2. When a permitted group is using the park/field all dogs must be leashed unless otherwise notified. A permitted group is defined as a group that has reserved space and/or has a permit from the Town of Belmont.
3. No dogs allowed within 50 feet of playgrounds.
4. No dogs on tennis/pickleball courts, basketball courts, or baseball fields.
5. No excessive barking.
6. No digging.
7. Handlers must have one leash per dog and no more than two dogs while visiting the park/field. Leashes must not exceed 6 feet in length.
8. Owners must be ready to remove a dog from a park/field area quickly if necessary.
9. Owners must maintain effective verbal control of dog(s).
10. Owners are responsible for picking up dog waste, supplying of waste bags, and proper disposal of dog waste bags.
11. Town Bylaw §60-200 applies (see p. 3).

These regulations are issued by the Belmont Select Board acting as the Board of Park Commissioners.

Dog use is fully suspended when:

- 🔗 Parks/Fields are closed by the Town (The Town closes parks/fields to all users)
- 🔗 School is in session or school activities are taking place on a park/field.





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2025 Belmont Paws in the Parks Program Enforcement

§ 60-200. Pets and other animals.

A. No person who owns, keeps or controls a dog shall allow the dog to run free when not restricted to the premises of said person, except as permitted by the Board of Health. Except as otherwise provided in this section, such dogs shall be leashed and curbed when off such premises.

B. Removal of feces.

Each person who owns, keeps or controls a dog within the Town shall remove and dispose of any feces left by such dog on any sidewalk, street, park or other public area or on any private property that is not owned or lawfully occupied by such person.

(1) Each person who owns, keeps or controls a dog within the Town shall remove and dispose of any feces left by such dog on any sidewalk, street, park or other public area or on any private property that is not owned or lawfully occupied by such person.

(2) No person who owns, keeps or controls a dog within the Town shall permit such dog to be on any sidewalk, street, park or other public area unless such dog is accompanied by a person carrying a device that is suitable for picking up and containing feces, unexposed to such person and to the general public.

(3) For purposes of this subsection, feces may be disposed of only at a place suitable and regularly reserved for the disposal of human feces or otherwise designated as appropriate by the Board of Health.

(4) Subsection D(1), (2) and (3) of this subsection shall not apply to a dog accompanying any person who, by reason of a handicap, is physically unable to comply with their requirements.

C. Except as the Board of Health may otherwise permit, no dogs, except those dogs that serve as service animals as defined by regulations issued pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 CFR 35.104, will be allowed in the following areas of the Town: all cemetery land, all public-school playgrounds and athletic fields and all Recreation Department playgrounds and athletic fields. Nor may any dog be allowed inside food establishments, retail businesses or public buildings.

D. Violations of this section shall be disposed of, in the discretion of the Board of Health, either in the manner provided in § 40-220E

Or, if applicable, pursuant to the provisions of MGL c. 140, § 173A. For all violations of this section other than violations of the licensing subsections, a noncriminal citation will be issued on the following schedule: first offense, \$50; second offense, \$100; third offense, \$300; Fourth and each succeeding offense, \$500. Any violation of the licensing subsections shall result in a fine of \$50 per such violation and, for violations continuing 30 days past licensing deadlines, an additional fine of \$100 per such violation. The fines specified in this subsection shall be in lieu of the schedule of fines specified in MGL c. 140, § 173A

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2025 Belmont Paws in the Parks Program Risk and Release of Liability

Acceptance of the terms and conditions of this release and adherence to designated Belmont Paws in the Parks Program rules are conditions of participating in the Town of Belmont Paws in the Parks Program approval, retention and renewal. Permits may be revoked for non-compliance.

I hereby acknowledge that I have voluntarily applied to participate and use, with my dog(s), designated Paws in the Parks Fields operated by the Town of Belmont. I understand that unleashing my dog(s) and being physically present at a Paws in the Parks Field involves risks of injury to me, any individual accompanying me, other people, my dog(s) and other dog(s), including but not limited to, risks resulting from aggressive dogs, unpredictable behavior and lack of training.

I further understand and assume that despite the efforts of the Town of Belmont to ensure owners have complied, there is a risk that not all dogs present on the Paws in the Parks Fields are licensed and vaccinated for rabies as required by Massachusetts Law and could result in injury to a human or dog.

It is my understanding that the use of Belmont's Paws in the Parks Fields is self-directed and not directly supervised by an agent or employee of the Town of Belmont.

By signing this release, I agree to indemnify and save harmless the Town of Belmont, its agents, officers and employees and assigns from and against all loss, costs, damages, expense and liability resulting from my use of the designated Paws in the Parks Fields, including death, sickness, injury, and disease to any person or dog, destruction to property, real or personal, arising directly from my use of the designated Paws in the Parks Fields.

By submitting this application and associated required valid City/Town Dog license, I hereby acknowledge that the information provided is accurate and truthful to the best of my knowledge. I realize that falsification of information may result in revocation of my Paws in the Parks Permit and field use privileges.

I have carefully read Belmont's Paws in the Parks Program Rules and Regulations (as provided as part of this registration packet) and agree to abide by them. I realize that non-compliance of the Paws in the Parks Program Rules and Regulation may result in Non-Criminal Citations and/or Revocation of Paws in the Parks Permit.

I have carefully read this release of liability, and understand, agree with, and accept its terms and conditions.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____



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2025 Belmont Paws in the Park Program Off-Leash Permit Application



DATE: _____

Applicant Information:

OWNER(S) NAME: _____

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

PET'S NAME: _____ LICENSE # _____ PERMIT # ISSUED _____

BREED: _____ COLOR: _____ SEX: _____

Agreement of Off-Leash Permit Regulations:

I have carefully read Belmont's Paws in the Parks Program Rules and Regulations (as provided as part of this registration packet) and agree to abide by them. I realize that non-compliance of the Paws in the Parks Program Rules and Regulations may result in Non-Criminal Citations and/or Revocation of Paws in the Parks Permit.

Applicants Signature: _____

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