

All Off-Leash Areas Return to Normal Opening Hours, Harmful Algae Blooms at East Branch

We're pleased to announce that all off-leash dog areas are **again open one hour after sunrise**. (Exceptions will remain on regularly scheduled maintenance days, when areas open a bit later.) **Look for pet waste disposal bags to also be available again beginning this week.**

If you visit the area at East Branch, as a reminder, there is a blue-green algae bloom in the water, which can make pets, children and people with weak immune systems sick if they ingest or inhale it. We take visitors' safety seriously and are monitoring the water with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, but we expect the algae to remain for quite a while.

- **Keep dogs out of the water.**
- Don't come in contact with the water yourself.
- Wash skin or fur that comes in contact with the water thoroughly as soon as possible.
- For more information visit the Illinois Department of Public Health website.

And as you visit any off-leash area during Phase 4 of Restore Illinois:

- Stay home if you're sick or have been near someone who's sick.
- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth.
- Practice social distancing and stay at least 6 feet away from other visitors.
- Don't touch entry gates or other surfaces with your bare hands. Cover your hand with a glove, clean bag or towel.
- Stay on the move, and don't gather or linger near entrance gates, shelters or other areas.
- Warn other users of your presence and allow proper distance when you pass.
- Display your permit so Forest Preserve District staff can see from a safe distance.

To receive text alerts on off-leash area updates, text DOGS to 866-743-7332 to subscribe. For questions, comments or concerns please email permits@dupageforest.org.

Your Friends at the Forest Preserve District
35580 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189
dupageforest.org