

Off-Leash Dog Area Update: Closure Effective May 1, 2020

The health and safety of forest preserve staff and visitors are our top priorities, which is why we continue to follow CDC recommendations related to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Recently, the CDC has updated their guidelines to include verbiage regarding pets specifically stating, *“do not let pets interact with people or other animals outside the household.”* The CDC further states patrons should *“avoid dog parks or public places where a large number of people and dogs gather.”*

To view the CDC’s guidelines on how to protect your pets please click here.

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html>)

In support of these guidelines and its own commitment to public health, the Forest Preserve District must temporarily close its off-leash areas.

We know that for many owners the off-leash areas have provided a break during these trying times, but we believe that supporting these CDC guidelines must take precedent during this historic pandemic.

As soon as public health officials deem it appropriate for pets from different households to again interact, we will promptly reopen the off-leash areas and notify you accordingly. Until then, we hope that you and your four-legged friends stay safe and take advantage of the 166 miles of trails you can walk with your leashed pets. To view our trails guide to plan your next hike please click here. (<https://www.dupageforest.org/things-to-do/get-outdoors/trails-guide>)

Keep in mind the CDC guidelines include the following social distancing information, *“walk dogs on a leash, maintaining at least 6 feet (2 meters) from other people and animals.”*

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.