



# **chicago park district**

## **DOG FRIENDLY AREAS**

### **MANUAL FOR DEVELOPMENT**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Chicago City Ordinance requires dogs to be on leashes in public areas for the protection of fellow residents, as well as the dogs themselves. To offer the numerous dogs in the city some room to move, the Chicago Park District has supported the development of several Dog Friendly Areas (DFAs) to provide safe places for dogs to exercise, play, and socialize legally “off-leash.”

In order to propose a DFA in a Chicago Park District park, the following six-step process must be completed by your group. Use this detailed manual as your guide along with the Checklist which outlines these six steps.

#### **DEFINITION**

A Chicago Park District Dog Friendly Area is defined as:

A designated section within a park or beach, where dogs are allowed to run and play off-leash—the only public areas in the City where this is allowed.

#### **STEP ONE: FORM THE COMMITTEE**

Creating a DFA in the Chicago Park District is a grass-roots operation; in effect you will become park developers. This is a long-term responsibility which will require community support and dedicated, on-going commitment by all members of the DFA committee.

Both the development and the continued existence of any DFA on Chicago Park District property depend on the ongoing and active involvement of an official group (DFA Committee) in the community where the DFA is proposed. If dog owners decide that a DFA is desired in their community, they must organize themselves as a DFA Committee with at least five members. This Committee should seek out other members, select a President, and maintain a contact person throughout the existence of the DFA. As a public agency, Park District policy requires inclusiveness; anyone interested in joining the Group is to be fairly considered.

The Group will appoint a liaison, or group leader, who will serve as the Group’s representative to the Chicago Park District and to the public. The liaison will be responsible for organizing and monitoring all DFA activities, as well as scheduling the group’s attendance at a park Advisory Council meeting to seek support and approval for the proposed DFA. It is beneficial for your group to join the Advisory Council, especially for assistance with fundraising efforts.

Once established, your DFA Committee must develop working relationships with the Park Supervisor, Area Manager, and the Advisory Council, as well as the local neighborhood association, C.A.P.S. Representative, and Ward Alderman. Support from all of these parties is crucial. Attendance at these organizations’ meetings is important and the concept of a DFA should be discussed.

## STEP TWO: IDENTIFY THE PROPOSED DFA LOCATION

Work with the Park Supervisor and Area Manager to choose the best location. Confirm with the Park Supervisor that the specific location is owned by the Chicago Park District.

There are certain criteria to use in identifying a proposed DFA location. Look for areas that include the following:

- Linear areas to section off
- Ability to allow for hard surface area
- Proximity to drainage to a sanitary sewer system
- Available water line at the site, or the finances necessary to install appropriate infrastructure (necessary for area maintenance and for dog drinking fountain). A Fire Department hydrant or the lake is not considered an available water source.
- Shaded and open areas for animals
- A buffer zone between DFA and other uses, such as tennis courts, field house, etc.
- Seemingly “under-utilized” section of existing park, which will not interfere with park aesthetics or existing uses. A section of park that is deemed “under-utilized” by the Region Manager in conjunction with the Dept. of Planning & Construction does not guarantee acceptance/approval of the area as a DFA.
- Distance from residences to ensure that noise and activity levels are no more disruptive to neighbors than typical park uses
- Compliance with all Americans with Disabilities Act Codes and Regulations and other City of Chicago Codes and Ordinances.

Not all parks are suitable for DFAs. Size of DFA will reflect the amount of available land, licensed dog population, park size and other considerations, and will be a minimum size of no less than 0.10 acres (4,356 square feet) and a maximum size of no more than 3.5% of total park acres, but not to exceed 15,000 square feet.

The following park areas will not be allowed:

- Areas adjacent to playgrounds
- Areas adjacent to ecologically sensitive areas such as nature areas, rivers, beaches, or lagoons
- Areas where the DFA would have a negative impact on the historical integrity of the park, facilities, or landscape
- Areas where the DFA would have a negative impact on activities, whether programmed or informal

New acquisitions for a DFA will only be considered if (1) there is no cost to CPD, (2) the property receives environmental clearance from the Director of Environmental Services, and (3) the community has an open space need.

There is a preference for not siting a new DFA in an existing park. DFAs in existing parks will be considered only if there are no other land options available in the community. The DFA Application review by the Department of Planning & Construction will include an analysis of other land options as preferable to dedicating existing park space. Applicants should detail their efforts in exploring all other land options other than using existing park space.

## STEP THREE: SUBMIT THE APPLICATION

Upon completion of Steps One and Two, submit an Application (**FORM #1**) to the designated department. Submit this completed form with pictures to:

Chicago Park District  
Dept. of Planning & Construction  
Attn: DFA Application  
541 N. Fairbanks Court, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

- Please keep in mind that not all parks are available for DFAs.
- All application forms received will be reviewed as soon as possible.
- DFA Committee's liaison will then receive **EITHER** an Application Approval Letter from the Park District directing you to proceed to Step 4 **OR** a request for more information **OR** the application may be denied.

## STEP FOUR: GATHER PETITIONS, SURVEYS, SUPPORT & FUNDING

Community consent and support is vital in obtaining Park District approval for a successful DFA. After receiving your Application Approval Letter, the following five steps are required to be completed by the DFA Committee members simultaneously over a one-year period:

### PETITION (FORM #2)

- A petition of support must be circulated within the neighborhood surrounding the proposed site. The petition area must be at least 5 blocks in each direction. A minimum of 50 signatures is needed. Only one signature per household is accepted.
- The community support must significantly out-weigh the opposition in order for the site to be considered.
- **IMPORTANT:** Include the signatures of both dog owners and non-dog owners.

### SITE USAGE SURVEYS (FORM #3)

- The DFA Committee members shall conduct usage surveys of the proposed area over a period of one year. Survey visits determine what's going on in the area of the park surrounding your proposed DFA site by identifying who currently uses the site, in what types of activities they are participating, which days and hours the park is heavily used, weather conditions, other amenities around the site (such as a playground or athletic field), and whether the observed park user is a dog owner.
- Arrange for the Park Supervisor to accompany you on your first survey visit.
- At least eight separate site visits are to be conducted, with at least one visit occurring per season.
- Of these 8 required visits to the park, at least 3 are to be conducted during peak usage time on a weekday and at least 3 during peak usage time on a weekend (work with the park supervisor to determine peak usage times). Surveys shall represent various days of the week, and shall represent morning, afternoon and evening hours.

### LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The Committee should be taken under the umbrella of the park's Advisory Council and/or closest neighborhood association in order to assist in finance, maintenance, and safety concerns. Collect letters of support from both the park's Advisory Council and the Ward Alderman. If no Advisory Council exists, obtain two letters from a neighborhood governing association, local block club,

neighboring business, homeowners association, or school, in addition to the letter from the Ward Alderman.

### **PUBLIC NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS**

A minimum of three public meetings must be conducted, concurrent with the petitions and surveys, to assure the consensus of the neighbors surrounding the proposed DFA. These meetings should be arranged by the contact person and can be held at any Neighborhood Association, C.A.P.S., or park Advisory Council meeting. The DFA Committee must provide a minimum of 10 business days advanced public notice to the surrounding area for maximum community input. The petition should be distributed, and the usage surveys discussed.

Representatives from the Chicago Park District, Ward Alderman's office, C.A.P.S., any governing neighborhood associations, and the park Advisory Council must be present at these meetings. It is recommended that the DFA Committee coordinate these meetings with one of these offices to include this item on their regularly scheduled meeting agenda.

**IMPORTANT:** Notify the Park Supervisor **and** the Park District's Dept. of Planning & Construction in advance of the date, time and location of these meetings.

### **IDENTIFY FUNDING**

One of the necessary initial steps is to locate funds to develop and operate the DFA.

- The 2013 estimated construction cost of a DFA is \$150,000. **The DFA Committee is responsible for 100% of the cost of development of the DFA.**
- 100% of the total project construction cost must be secured prior to the advancement of the design process. Amounts and percentages are subject to change based on the scope of work.
- Your park Advisory Council can work with your Group to hold fundraising events, such as auctions, sales, concerts, etc.
- Local businesses may be interested in donating materials, money, and/or volunteer hours.
- Local officials may have funds available to support such a community improvement project.

## **STEP FIVE: SUBMIT THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE**

### **WRITTEN PROPOSAL**

A written proposal consists of the following documentation:

- **Committee Membership roster.** Name of Committee, park, contact information of the primary and alternate group leaders, and a complete listing of current group members.
- **Funding plan.** Identified funding sources, and committed amounts.
- **DFA conceptual layout.** Include a sketch which can be basic and hand-drawn. Show the DFA layout including dimensions, and locations of the water source, sewer, nearby buildings, and trees.
- **Maintenance plan.** Provide a detailed maintenance plan, indicating how the DFA will be cared for on a daily and seasonal basis.

### **SUBMIT THE PAPERWORK**

Submit the following to the department listed in Step Three:

- PROPOSAL PACKAGE** {
- Petition – Form #2
  - minimum 12 usage surveys – Form #3
  - Letters of Support
  - Written Proposal
  - a copy of your application approval letter

The proposal package will be reviewed as soon as possible. DFA Committee's liaison will then receive **EITHER** a DFA Proposal Approval Letter from the Park District **OR** a request for more information.

**If any part of the required written proposal documents is incomplete and/or insufficient, you will be required to resubmit the documents. This will delay your application process.**

## **STEP SIX: DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION**

Upon approval of a proposed DFA, the Chicago Park District will assign a Project Manager, and discuss design possibilities with the DFA Committee. The Park District will also present the design at the next Advisory Council or neighborhood association meeting for review and agreement. The Chicago Park District will also obtain costs for the proposed DFA.

Once reasonable agreement regarding design, funding, and operation have been reached, the DFA Committee representatives will sign a DFA Commitment Agreement (**FORM #4**), each member of the DFA Committee will sign a Liability Waiver (**FORM #4B**), and the Park District will construct the DFA. The Commitment Agreement and collection of Liability Waivers should be submitted to the Park District staff liaison designated on the Commitment Agreement.

## **FINISH: ENJOY THE DFA**

Upon construction completion, the maintenance and management of the DFA is turned over to the DFA Committee. Your Group will be required to renew its DFA commitment Agreement every three years. You will be asked for a progress report on your DFA, a current membership list and liability waivers from each member, and a budget plan for the next 3 years.

Your Park Supervisor and Area Manager are your main contacts for all departments within the Park District. Just as you have been given responsibility to maintain your DFA in an appealing manner, your Park Supervisor and Area Manager will work with you by sharing information about any activities in the park which may affect your DFA.

## APPENDIX ONE: RULES AND REGULATIONS

Each DFA will have a permanent DFA sign, provided by the Park District, displaying the following DFA rules and regulations.

- ❖ Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries caused by their dogs.
- ❖ Owners must remain with and watch their dogs at all times.
- ❖ Dogs must be leashed prior to and upon leaving the DFA. Gates to the DFAs must remain closed except upon entering and exiting the DFA.
- ❖ Owners must immediately clean up after their dogs. Owners who fail to clean up after their dogs are subject to a fine of up to \$500.00 (City of Chicago Ordinance 7-12-420).
- ❖ Dogs with a known history of, or who exhibit, dangerous behavior are prohibited.
- ❖ Dogs must be healthy, fully immunized, dewormed, licensed and comply with the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control Regulation for Chicago Park District DFAs.
- ❖ No dog will be allowed in a DFA unless it has a current rabies vaccination.
- ❖ Dog owners are responsible for the monitoring and maintenance of the DFA.
- ❖ Owners or other responsible persons must have a DFA permit with them for each dog visiting the DFA.
- ❖ DFA permits are valid for 12 months from the date of issuance.
- ❖ Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult; younger children must be closely supervised.
- ❖ Only three dogs per person allowed.
- ❖ Puppies under four months old and female dogs in heat are prohibited.
- ❖ Failure to comply with the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control Regulation for Chicago Park District DFAs can result in a fine of up to \$500.00.

## APPENDIX TWO: PERMITS & TAGS

The Administrator of the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control mandated that the Park District issue permits for all off-leash dogs using Dog Friendly Areas. This regulation will be enforced by Deputies of the Department of Animal and Rabies Control. Any patron using a DFA without a permit is subject to a \$500 fine.

The owner or other responsible person bringing any dog into a DFA must have a permit and tag issued by a participating veterinarian for each dog. The veterinarian will issue a permit for any dog when the dog's owner or other person responsible for the dog shows the following:

1. The owner or other responsible person produces a current dog license issued by the City of Chicago, or proof that the dog has a current rabies vaccination.
2. The owner must complete a Chicago Park District Dog Friendly Area Permit Application for each dog. The owner shall provide written proof acceptable to the Park District showing that a licensed veterinarian (or other authorized person) has performed a fecal test for parasites and vaccinated any dog entering a DFA for the following diseases:
  - a. Distemper
  - b. Hepatitis
  - c. Para influenza
  - d. Parvovirus

- e. Bordetella, and
  - f. Leptospirosis  
(current titers where applicable will also be acceptable)
3. After issuance of a permit, the dog owner is responsible for keeping immunizations a through f above current.
  4. The owner must agree to abide by the Chicago Park District Rules and Regulations of a Dog Friendly Area.

Dog Friendly Area Permit Applications are available at participating veterinarian offices. The Chicago Park District, with the cooperation of the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association, developed a process for distributing permits for our Dog Friendly Areas. Permits are available at the offices of participating veterinarians for a cost of \$5 per dog.

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## DOG FRIENDLY AREAS CHECKLIST TO BEGIN A NEW DFA

We are glad to hear that you're interested in starting a new DFA in your local park. This is a long-term responsibility which will require community support and dedicated, on-going commitment by all members of your DFA Committee.

To start a new DFA you must follow this checklist to guide you through the Manual for Development.

<b>STEP 1</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> READ THE ENTIRE MANUAL detailing the development process <input type="checkbox"/> FORM A GROUP of interested parties
<b>STEP 2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ASK the Park Supervisor and Area Manager for their support for a DFA <input type="checkbox"/> TOGETHER with the Park Supervisor , choose possible appropriate locations in the park <input type="checkbox"/> DETERMINE if there is a working WATER SOURCE
<b>STEP 3</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> SUBMIT the completed "Initial Application for a New DFA" (FORM #1) <input type="checkbox"/> WAIT TO HEAR that your group is approved to begin the process
<b>STEP 4</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> COLLECT SIGNATURES for the Petition (FORM #2) <input type="checkbox"/> COMPLETE SITE SURVEYS- requires at least twelve separate visits (FORM #3) <input type="checkbox"/> COLLECT LETTERS of support <input type="checkbox"/> ATTEND at least three public meetings to ask for support <input type="checkbox"/> IDENTIFY THE FUNDING to develop and operate the DFA
<b>STEP 5</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> SUBMIT A WRITTEN PROPOSAL PACKAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Petition</li> <li>○ Usage surveys</li> <li>○ Letters of support</li> <li>○ Written proposal               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Membership roster</li> <li>▪ Funding plan</li> <li>▪ Conceptual layout</li> <li>▪ Maintenance plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Copy of approval letter</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> WAIT TO HEAR that your group is approved
<b>STEP 6</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> AGREE UPON A FINAL DFA DESIGN with the Chicago Park District <input type="checkbox"/> Chicago Park District PRESENTS the design to the community <input type="checkbox"/> DFA Committee representatives READ, SIGN, and SUBMIT the "Commitment Agreement" (FORM #4) <input type="checkbox"/> Each DFA Committee member READS, SIGNS, and SUBMITS one "Liability Waiver" (FORM #4B) <input type="checkbox"/> Chicago Park District CONSTRUCTS the DFA



**chicago park district**



**DOG FRIENDLY AREAS  
INITIAL APPLICATION FOR A NEW DFA**

**PART 1:**

Park: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Park Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Park Supervisor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Area Manager's name: \_\_\_\_\_

DFA Committee Name (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a new DFA committee? YES or NO How many active members to date? \_\_\_\_\_

**Liaison/Primary Contact's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address with zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* The Primary & Alternate contacts may not be in the same immediate family and may not reside at the same address.*

**Alternate Contact's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address with zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 2:**

Describe in detail the location where your committee would like to locate a DFA. Example: "about 100 feet southeast of the corner of 61<sup>st</sup> St. & Cornell Ave. . . . west of the tennis courts":

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Estimate the desired square footage: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*AN EXISTING WATER SOURCE IS DESIRABLE.** Describe type of water source & its distance from the DFA:

\_\_\_\_\_

**PART 3:** Attach at least 3 pictures showing the proposed location.

**PART 4:** Please make sure that all required documents are completely & accurately filled out to avoid a delay in processing. If necessary, we may require your documents to be resubmitted.

Submit this completed form with pictures to:

Chicago Park District  
Dept. of Planning & Construction  
Attn: DFA Application  
541 N. Fairbanks, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60611



**chicago park district**

**DOG FRIENDLY AREAS**

**PETITION**

Creating a DFA in the Chicago Park District is a long-term responsibility which will require community awareness and support. Residents of Chicago who would like to develop a DFA in their neighborhood park must discuss this with their neighbors by circulating this petition.

Please be informed that...

- Only one signature per household is accepted.
- Only signatures from those that reside near the park of interest will be accepted.
- A minimum of 50 signatures are required on the petition. Use more than one sheet.
- Be sure that all required documents are completely & accurately filled out to avoid a delay in processing. If necessary, we will require your documents to be resubmitted.



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**DOG FRIENDLY AREAS**

**SITE & USAGE SURVEY**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

This survey will determine the existing conditions near the proposed DFA site by identifying who currently uses the site, the types of activities going on, which days and hours the park is most heavily used, weather conditions, and other amenities around the site such as a playlot or athletic field.

Please be informed that...

- At least eight separate site visits are to be conducted over a period of one year, with at least one visit occurring per season.
- Of these 8 required visits to the park, at least 3 are to be conducted during peak usage time on a weekday and at least 3 during peak usage time on a weekend (work with the park supervisor to find peak usage times).
- The Park Supervisor must accompany you on the first survey visit. \_\_\_\_\_

Park Supervisor signature

**SURVEYOR'S INFORMATION**

DFA Committee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Park: \_\_\_\_\_ in Ward #: \_\_\_\_\_

Surveyor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Surveyor's Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a dog owner? Y or N

**PROPOSED DFA LOCATION**

**Location Description**

- Describe in detail the location where the DFA Committee would like to locate a DFA. Example: "NW corner of Taylor & Western . . . west of the Tennis Courts"

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Structures & Size**

- Are there existing structures (field house, other buildings, fences, arbors, sculptures . . . ) in and around the Area? YES or NO. If yes, please provide a brief description, including how close they are to your Area:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Describe the Area's landscape features (trees, shrubs, grass, pathways . . . ) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Estimate the desired square footage: \_\_\_\_\_

- Would this Area be able to generously accommodate that size? YES or NO

**Water & Sun**

- Is there an existing water source? \_\_\_\_\_ Approximately how close? \_\_\_\_\_ feet/yards
- Describe the water source: spigot, lawn hydrant, or \_\_\_\_\_
- The Area is (check one):  Full sun  Partial Shade  Complete Shade

**TODAY'S CONDITIONS**

- **Day of Week** (circle one): M T W TH F SAT SUN
- **Time in** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time out** \_\_\_\_\_ am/ pm **During peak usage?** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Weather** (circle all that apply):  
Sunny Windy Hot Cold  
Cloudy Snowy Rainy Warm

**Current Usage**

- What types of usage spaces do you see that are in or near your proposed Area, such as a playlot, athletic field, open grassy spaces, etc.? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Number of individuals observed **IN** the Area?  
Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Teens: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Dogs: \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of individuals observed **NEAR** the Area?  
Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Teens: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Dogs: \_\_\_\_\_
- What activities are these people participating in? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER COMMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**chicago park district**  
**DOG FRIENDLY AREAS**  
**COMMITMENT AGREEMENT**

A Chicago Park District off-leash, Dog Friendly Area (DFA) is a privilege that carries both long-term commitment and responsibility. It calls upon the Dog Friendly Area Committee to commit time, thought, energy, and financial support towards the viability and support of the DFA.

**Failure to provide the below support, both operational and financial, may result in the Chicago Park District reverting the parkland to its original use.**

**MAINTENANCE**

The DFA Committee is entirely responsible for the maintenance of the DFA. The space allocated is on public land and must always be actively maintained. It is the responsibility of the DFA Committee to clean up after their pets; rotate, bleach and replace any pea gravel areas, including removing pea gravel and waste that has spilled outside of the DFA; wash down the hard surface area bi-weekly; powerwash hard surface area 3 – 4 times per year (schedule this with the Chicago Park District Area Manager); and on a daily basis, clean up any waste that other users may have missed. The regular users of the DFA should inform new users of the DFA rules and regulations as well as the importance of maintenance. The DFA Committee must provide the Chicago Park District with a monthly cleaning schedule.

Through the Park District's independent observation, if the space is deemed unsightly or unkempt, the designated liaison will be given two separate warning notices both via two different means (for example, phone call and letter through the mail) each time. If the problem continues thereafter, the agreement will be revoked and the DFA Committee will be responsible for proposing a plan to restore the DFA to parkland to the satisfaction of the Park District's Department of Planning & Construction.

**MONITORING**

The DFA Committee shall assist in the monitoring of the DFA. The DFA Committee should encourage the enforcement of the leash laws outside of the DFA and monitor the behavior of the dogs and dog owners using the DFA. The DFA Committee shall educate users regarding the Chicago Park District rules and regulations for a DFA, including the license requirements.

**FUNDRAISING**

The DFA Committee should organize fundraising campaigns to finance new projects for the DFA such as a doggie drinking fountain; an information/bulletin board; an isolation area or an agility area; non-capital improvements or repairs; a storage shed for hose, waste bags, and cleaning supplies; new benches; non-standard Chicago Park District DFA design element repair or replacement; and upgrades of standard design elements.

**MANAGEMENT**

The DFA Committee should communicate frequently with the Chicago Park District regarding the management of the DFA. If problems occur with the operation or patrons of the DFA, the Chicago Park District must be informed and involved in the resolution of the problem.

**CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES**

The DFA Committee shall participate in semi-annual entire park clean-up events in conjunction with the Friends of the Parks, Earth Day, Clean and Green, or similar celebrations.

**STRUCTURES**

Structures including storage sheds are not allowed, unless approved by the Park District’s Department of Planning.

**DFA BOUNDARIES**

The DFA boundaries must remain as originally constructed. Any proposed expansion must be reviewed and approved by the Park District’s Department of Planning.

**SIGNAGE**

Each DFA will have a permanent DFA sign, provided by the Park District, displaying the DFA rules and regulations.

**VEHICLES**

Park patrons are permitted to use motorized vehicles within a park **ONLY** on designated roadways, driveways and parking facilities. **The parking or driving of motorized vehicles by any park patron on walkways, restricted-access drives, lawn areas, under trees, or within landscaped areas is strictly forbidden.**

**QUALITY ASSURANCE**

A Chicago Park District representative may attend a neighborhood association and/or park Advisory Council meeting to review the successes or challenges experienced by the DFA. The Park District will take appropriate action based on that assessment. Failure by the DFA Committee to provide the required operational and financial support will result in the removal of the DFA by the Park District.

**LIABILITY**

The Park District is not responsible for the DFA itself; or for anything in or pertaining to the DFA. Each member of the DFA Committee must sign a waiver of liability.

**DFA TERMINATION**

If the DFA Committee decides to no longer maintain their space, they must immediately notify the Park District’s LCA department and the Park Supervisor and Area Manager. The DFA Committee will be responsible for proposing a plan to restore the DFA to parkland to the satisfaction of the Park District’s Department Planning & Construction.

**PARK DISTRICT MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Park District may budget for needed capital projects, including sewer repair, fencing or gate repairs, asphalt replacement, site furnishing repair or replacement, landscape improvements, and fountain repair or replacement. The Park District may also budget up to 50% of the cost of the repair or replacement of any Chicago Park District DFA standard design element.

**As the members of \_\_\_\_\_ Park Dog Friendly Area Committee, we understand the above volunteer commitment and agree to fulfill our volunteer obligation to the \_\_\_\_\_ Park Dog Friendly Area.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of the Chicago Park District, the commitment of the members of the \_\_\_\_\_ Park Dog Friendly Area Committee is hereby acknowledged,

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Legislative & Community Affairs

and the following staff member is designated as the primary liaison for matters pertaining to this Agreement:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_





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**DOG FRIENDLY AREAS**

**LIABILITY WAIVER**

*The Chicago Park District is not responsible for the Dog Friendly Area (DFA) itself, or for anything in or pertaining to the DFA. Each member of the DFA Committee must sign this Liability Waiver.*

I acknowledge that I am acting as a voluntary participant in the DFA Program, and that I have read the materials contained in the applicant packet and understand its contents.

I agree to assume the full risk of any injury, damage, or loss, regardless of severity, resulting during my presence on Chicago Park District property while participating in the DFA program. I further agree to fully release the Chicago Park District, its commissioners, officers, agents, and employees, from any and all claims that I, or any representative on my behalf, may have or that may accrue or arise out of my presence on Chicago Park District property while participating in the DFA program.

I agree to defend, hold harmless, and indemnify the Chicago Park District and its commissioners, officers, agents, and employees against any and all claims that I, or any other representative on my behalf, may seek to assert and arising out of or in any way associated with my presence on Chicago Park District property while participating in the DFA program.

I have read and fully understand this waiver and release of claim and indemnification. My fax or on-line signature shall substitute for and have the same legal effect as an original signature.

I have exercised my own judgment in signing this waiver and release of claim and indemnification, and my decision to sign this waiver and consent was voluntary and not based on or influenced by any representation of the Chicago Park District.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Park Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DFA Committee Name: \_\_\_\_\_