

Frequently Asked Questions

Fort Harrison State Park Dog Park

Where is the dog park?

The Dog Park is located at 8725 Fall Creek Road on the north side of the Fort Harrison State Park property. It cannot be reached by entering through the Main Gate, or from inside the main body of the park, because it is located on the north side of Fall Creek.

How big is the dog park?

The dog park has three separately fenced play areas. Platoon Run, closest to Fall Creek Road, is around 3.6 acres. It has numerous large trees for shade and a wooded area on the west end. Herrin Hill is about 1.3 acres and is located in the middle of the dog park. This area is mostly open grass, but does have some trees offering limited shade. Brigade Landing is approximately 5 acres and includes a pond and a larger wooded "adventure" area for exploration (Brigade Landing is currently under construction and not open to the public).

What amenities does the dog park have?

Platoon Run has a water station, benches, picnic tables, and waste stations. It also contains a picnic shelter for use by members. Herrin Hill has a water station, benches, picnic tables, and waste stations. A portable restroom sits in the parking lot area for members' convenience.

What areas of the dog park are now open?

Herrin Hill, the smallest of the three areas at about 1.3 acres, opened on Labor Day Weekend, 2013. Platoon Run, at about 3.5 acres, opened in October 2013 with an official dedication. Brigade Landing is currently under construction and an opening date is not know at this time.

How much does it cost and how does access work?

Dog Park passes are \$75.00 per year, per dog. They are valid January 1 – December 31 of each year. There is no discount for multiple dogs. Each owner/family will be provided with one access pass per dog that will provide entrance through the Dog Park's Main Gate, as well as any play areas that are currently open. These include Herrin Hill and Platoon Run at this time. Replacement passes are available for \$15.00 each. Areas may be closed for short periods of time to address maintenance or grounds keeping needs. These closures will be as limited as possible. A Dog Park pass, or access card, will not provide admission through the Park's Main Gate for other activities such as hiking, fishing, picnicking, or attending interpretive programs. The daily admission fee, or an annual entrance pass, will be required for entrance into the main body of Fort Harrison State Park.

Where can I purchase my pass? What do I need to bring?

Passes can be purchased at the park office within the Visitor's Center at Fort Harrison State Park (Enter at 59th St and N. Post Rd), from 8:30am-4:00pm Monday-Friday. Please contact the business office at 317-591-0904 with any questions you may have. You must provide copies of current veterinary vaccination records for rabies, parvovirus, distemper, and bordetella and must complete and sign the dog park membership application annually. Applications can be found online on Fort Harrison's webpage at www.stateparks.IN.gov/2982.htm. Hard copies of Membership Applications are also available in the park office.



What are the dog park rules?

Dog park rules and etiquette are posted at the entrance to each play area, and copies are available as part of the annual dog park membership application mentioned above. When you sign the membership application, you are indicating that you agree to abide by any and all Dog Park rules.

How many passes are you selling?

We are not limiting memberships at this time. We monitor dog park usage and member interactions on an ongoing basis. If it is determined that limits on memberships need to be enacted we will act accordingly.

How did you select the play area names?

We held a contest to name the three play areas. All of the names have ties with the state park's history. "Platoon and "Brigade" are terms related to the size of military units. This ties in with Fort Harrison State Park because our property was part of a military base for nearly 100 years. The Herrin family were some of the earliest settlers to the area that is now the state park.

The dog park was dedicated to honor the Indiana Conservation Officer K-9 Teams who serve and protect Indiana's citizens and natural resources. Memorial benches were placed in the dog park to honor the first two Indiana K-9 officers, Judge and Journey, and their respective handlers, Colonel Scotty Wilson and Officer Jeff Milner.

Is a dog park compatible with the mission of Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs?

Providing outdoor recreation opportunities and managing and conserving our natural and cultural resources are at the heart of our mission. A dog park is not something we are likely to develop at other state parks, but the urban nature of Fort Harrison State Park and the isolation of this piece of land from the rest of the park make it an ideal location for a dog park. We see lots of people walking their dogs on leash on trails in the park, and know that dog parks are popular and successful in urban park systems elsewhere.

How will wildlife that may use the area be impacted?

Evaluating the impact on wildlife is a part of our review process for any proposed facility or site development. There are no identified threatened or endangered species in the area. Removal of shrubs and small trees will certainly impact the amount of cover for some species, but a significant amount of cover will remain. There is, of course, a possibility that rabbits, squirrels and other small mammals will be impacted when the dogs are utilizing the facility. It is our expectation that dog owners will maintain close watch of their pets to limit this impact. As dog park usage grows, wildlife will adapt to using areas outside the fenced perimeter. Interpretive signage has been developed and installed to help dog park users understand the types of wildlife and plants that may be seen in the area.

How can we share our comments and questions?

We look forward to hearing from dog owners about our features, amenities and rules. Let us know what concerns or other questions you have. You can share your comments and questions at the park office, join the Fort Harrison State Park Dog Park Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/501700879924441/ or email them to FHSPOffice@dnr.in.gov

