

Frequently Asked Questions

Fort Harrison State Park Dog Park



Where is the dog park?

The dog park is located in a gated area accessible only by driving to 8725 Fall Creek Road on the north side of the state park. It is not reachable from the main park entrance because of its location on the north side of Fall Creek, and will not impact other visitor activities inside the park. The Fort Harrison State Park Dog Park is not affiliated with any other local dog parks.

How big is the dog park and what amenities are available?

The dog park has three separately fenced play areas. None of the play areas have dog size restrictions. There is a portable restroom for humans located in the parking lot.

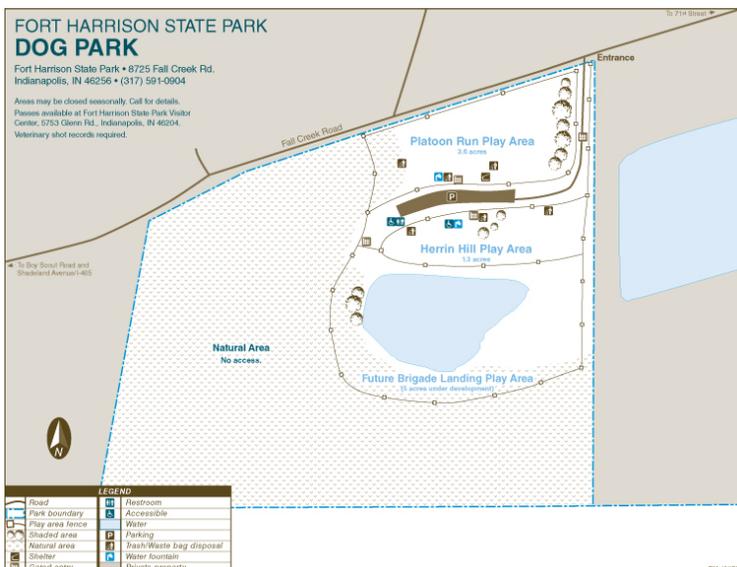
Platoon Run is the closest to Fall Creek Road. With about 3.6 acres, it has a few large trees for shade and some woods at the west end. It has a water station, benches, and waste stations. It also has a shelter and a fireplace that is used by dog owners when visiting with their pets. Agility equipment was installed in Platoon Run and Herrin Hill in 2019.

Herrin Hill is about 1.3 acres and is located in the middle of the dog park. It is mostly open grass with some shade. Herrin Hill also has a water station, benches, and waste stations.

Brigade Landing is about 5 acres and includes a pond, a dog beach, and a rugged, wooded “adventure” area for exploration. It is open from April 1 - October 31 each year. (Note – the pond and beach in Brigade Landing are ONLY FOR DOGS; not for fishing or swimming.) The pond is tested weekly from May – October for any evidence of Blue-Green Algae, and closures of Brigade Landing may occur if levels exceed those that are safe for dog use.

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 opened in October 2013 with an official dedication. Brigade Landing opened on April 1, 2017 and is open annually from April 1-October 31. Note – the pond and beach are ONLY FOR DOGS; no fishing and no human swimming.



What is the cost and how does access work?

Dog Park passes are \$75 per year, per dog. Cash or credit/debit card payments are accepted. The passes are valid January 1 – December 31 of each year. There is no discount for multiple dogs. Each owner/family is provided with one access pass per dog that provides entrance through the dog park’s main gate, as well as any of the three play areas that are currently open. These include Herrin Hill, Platoon Run, and Brigade Landing. 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

state park’s Main Gate for other activities such as hiking, fishing, picnicking, or attending interpretive programs. Daily admission fee or an annual entrance pass will be required for entrance into the main body of Fort Harrison State Park.

Is there a way for me to “try out” the dog park to see how my dog does in the play areas? Yes, you can purchase a weekly pass that is good for 7 days from the day of purchase. This pass costs \$15. You must complete the application, provide vaccination records, and sign the waiver of liability just as year-long pass holders do.

Where can I purchase my pass?

A dog park pass can be purchased at the park office from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Enter at the park gate at East 59th Street and North Post Road. Please contact the park 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 annual membership application and waiver of liability, which can be found online on Fort Harrison's webpage at on.IN.gov/fortharrisonsp. Membership applications are also available in hard copy at the state park office.

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.

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 also sign indicating that you agree to abide by the dog park rules.

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 and were chosen because of Fort Harrison State Park's history as a military base for nearly 100 years. The Herrins were one of the earliest settlers of the area that is now the state park.

The dog park has been dedicated in honor of the Indiana Conservation Officer K-9 Teams who serve and protect Indiana's citizens and natural resources. Memorial benches have been 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?

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 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 trails in the park, and know that dog parks are popular and successful in urban park systems elsewhere. Activity in this area will also help limit vandalism and unauthorized access.

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 dogs use 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.

How can we share our comments and questions?

We look forward to hearing from dog owners about 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 facebook.com/groups/501700879924441/ if you are a dog park member, or email them to FHSPOffice@dnr.IN.gov.

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DNR
Indiana Department
of Natural Resources



Memories made naturally.