



Take Advantage of Dog Park Fun That's Off the Chain

New York City's many off-leash dog parks provide the perfect venue for a tail-wagging good time



The start of fall is probably one of the most beautiful times to be outside in the City with your dog. Now that the dog days are wafting away on cooler breezes, it may be a great time to treat yourself and your pooch to a quality time dedicated to socializing, fun and freedom. Did you know New York City boasts more than 50 off-leash dog parks, each with its own charm and amenities ranging from nature trails to swimming pools?

For a good time, keep this list of the top 25 handy and refer to it often. With it, you and your dog will never tire of a walk outside.

- 1. Carl Schurz Park Dog Run: East End Ave. between 84th and 89th St.** Stroll along the East River after your pup mixes it up in two off-leash dog runs.
- 2. Central Park.** Central Park is designated off-leash for the hours of 9pm until 9am daily. Remember, they're never allowed in the playgrounds, display foundations, ball fields, Elm Islands, Sheep Meadow, East Green, and Strawberry Fields. During the hours between 9am and 9pm, all dogs must be leashed.
- 3. Chelsea Waterside Park: 22nd St and 11th Ave.** Not only do we love the name, we love this pretty swath of green where Fido can run free.
- 4. Coleman Square Park Dog Run: Pike St at Monroe.** This fenced, off-leash dog run at the heart of a popular public park is fun for the whole family.
- 5. DeWitt Clinton Park Dog Run: Between 10th and 11th Ave at 52nd and 54th St.** This small, fenced park is right near the water, and a wonderful place to run and frolic off the leash.
- 6. East River Esplanade Dog Run: East River at East 60th St.** The esplanade is a clean, safe dog place for some off-leash exercise. It's very popular and usually gets quite busy in the evenings.
- 7. Fish Bridge Park Dog Run: Dover St., between Pearl & Water St.** It's refreshing fun with running water and a doggie pool to splash in. Definitely keep this park in mind for the summer.
- 8. Fort Tryon Park Dog Run: Margaret Corbin Drive, Washington Heights.** This is one of the largest runs in the city, making it perfect for big breeds that want to really stretch out and race.
- 9. Highbridge Park Dog Run: Amsterdam at Fort George Ave.** It's a safe, fenced park that's central to much of the City.
- 10. Hudson River Park, Greenwich Village Dog Run: Leroy St. at Pier 40.** This is a great place to people and dog watch with plenty of room for all.
- 11. Hudson River Park, North Chelsea Dog Run: W 44th St. at Pier 84.** This park offers a beautiful view of the river. Plus, there are many dog-friendly restaurants nearby.
- 12. Inwood Hill Park Dog Run: Dyckman St and Payson Ave.** It's a popular City park for both pooches and pet owners, and there's plenty of room to explore.
- 13. J. Hood Wright Dog Run: Fort Washington & Haven Aves., West 173rd St.** This is a dog-friendly run that's convenient to both Washington Heights and Fort George.
- 14. Madison Square Park Dog Run: Madison Ave. to East 4th Ave. between East 23rd St. & East 26th St.** This is one of the City's most popular dog runs, with its central location and great nearby pet-friendly places to visit.
- 15. Marcus Garvey Park Dog Run: Madison Ave. at East 120th St.** The mulched ground cover in this off-leash dog park is perfect for pets that are sensitive to certain weeds and grasses.
- 16. Morningside Park Dog Run: Morningside Ave. between 114th and 119th Sts.** Reward your pooch after a leashed walk along beautiful nature trails with a freedom romp in the park's fenced, off-leash run.
- 17. Peter Detmold Park Dog Run: West Side of FDR Drive between 49th and 51st.** This is a hidden jewel located on the East side. It's fully fenced and shaded by an urban forest.
- 18. Riverside Park Dog Runs: Riverside Dr at W 72nd, 87th, and 105th.** Three dog parks in a row give you and your pet plenty of options for frolicking in the grass.
- 19. Robert Moses Park Dog Run: 41st St. and 1st Ave.** Robert Moses Dog Park is fenced, clean and safe.
- 20. Sirius Dog Run: Liberty St and South End Ave.** Located in Battery Park City's Gateway Plaza, this run is freshly paved and ready for action.
- 21. St Nicholas Park Dog Run: St Nicholas Ave at 135th St.** This Harlem dog run is fully fenced and includes separate areas for large and small dogs.
- 22. Theodore Roosevelt Park Dog Run: Central Park West and W 81st St.** Dogs appreciate the wide-open spaces, and owners appreciate the lush, manicured landscaping.
- 23. Thomas Jefferson Park Dog Run: East 112th St. at FDR Dr.** This popular public park is perfect for some weekend off-leash excitement.
- 24. Tompkins Square Park Dog Run: 1st Ave and Ave B between 7th and 10th.** Soft mulch and fun times await at this well-maintained off-leash park.
- 25. Washington Square Park Dog Run: Washington Square South.** It's a fenced neighborhood dog park complete with running water.
- 26. Stuyvesant Park Dog Run: 2nd Ave. at 17th St.** Located in a peaceful, shady part of the City, this park has an off-leash run and a great place to walk your dog on a leash along trails alive with flowers and fountains.



★ BE OFF-LEASH READY

Our best veterinary advice is to see that your dog is up-to-date on all of their shots before entering any dog park. While a fun place to socialize and get plenty of exercise, dog parks are often full of dogs with varying health backgrounds and conditions. Watch for dogs that are coughing or that have runny noses and see that your dog steers clear of those pets. Common sense and a watchful eye can keep pets safe, healthy and out of negative situations.

- Remember to always bring water with you as some parks provide running water while others do not.
- Reward your pet with a treat after play, but only after you're away from the off-leash area.
- Always keep your pet leashed when not exploring an off-leash park.
- Monitor your dog's play and ensure the dogs playing together have similar temperaments.
- Most of these parks are operated by the N.Y.C. Parks Department. For information, call 212-New-York or 311 from anywhere inside the City

Consult your West Chelsea veterinarian if you have any questions or concerns about visiting an off-leash dog park.

