



WARMINSTER TOWNSHIP BARK PARK “PAW-PASS” ACCESS INFORMATION & 2021 APPLICATION FORM



Application Requirements:

Completion of the application form (2 pages) with **copies** of the required license and vaccination information. All registered dogs are required to have **both a current dog license** issued by the County of residence (or PA Lifetime license) and a **current rabies vaccination certificate** from a licensed veterinarian. Additionally, each applicant is required to thoroughly **read** the “Rules & Regulations” and then sign the “Acceptance of Risk & Release of Liability Waiver Form”. **Please note that only registered persons and registered dogs are allowed to use the park.**

“Paw-Pass” Access:

Once you have submitted the required documents, have paid the membership fee and attended the Bark Park orientation workshop, you will receive a key fob that fits on your keychain and allows registered users to gain entry to all areas of the Bark Park during the scheduled hours of operation. The key fob will allow unlimited usage of the Warminster Township Bark Park in Warminster Community Park, from sunrise to sunset, seven (7) days a week, weather and conditions permitting. **Key fobs will be valid until December 31st of the year purchased** and then members have 30 days to renew before their Paw Pass is deactivated. For **New Members & those renewing after a 2-year period of inactivity, key fobs** will be issued, or reactivated, after attending a mandatory Bark Park Workshop.

User Fees:

The Township established the following fees for unlimited use of the park. There have been no changes in the annual access fee since we opened in 2009. Revenue generated from the “Paw-Pass” fee is used for park improvements, general site maintenance, and operating expenses. Fees are per household.

- Warminster Township Resident Annual Access Fee - \$25.00
- Non-Resident of Warminster Township Annual Access Fee - \$35.00
- Replacement or additional Key fobs - \$12 each.

Payments can be made with cash, credit card or check/money order made payable to “Warminster Township”. **All fees are Non-Refundable.**

Applications & Filing for Pass:

Applications and Key fobs may be obtained from the **Parks & Recreation Department, located at 1100 Veterans Way in Warminster, Monday-Friday** (except on legal holidays) from **9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**. Applications are available in-person or online: www.warminstertownship.org/barkpark

Mandatory Bark Park Workshop:

As recommended by the Warminster Animal Control Officer (ACO), all applicants that wish to become members of the Bark Park and those that are renewing after two years of inactivity in the Bark Park, must attend one FREE Bark Park orientation workshop **PRIOR** to membership acceptance/renewal and issuance of a key fob. These workshops are provided each month virtually (Covid) and/or in person by the Parks & Recreation Department, 1100 Veterans Way – call 215-443-5428 for dates and times. The purpose of these workshops is to provide information to the responsible dog owner and for each member to understand their responsibilities. We do this to ensure the safety of all owners and dogs that play at the Bark Park. Workshops are for people only.

Warminster Township Bark Park
Warminster Community Park, 1100 Veterans Way, Warminster, Pa 18974

WARMINSTER TOWNSHIP BARK PARK'S MISSION STATEMENT:

To create a fenced-in, off-leash dog park where well-behaved and socialized canine citizens can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering or annoying people, property or local wildlife. To develop a well-maintained space open to dog lovers and friends who are willing to uphold the park's rules and regulations. To view the park as a community project in Warminster Township, designed to satisfy the needs of dog owners and non-dog owners alike. To promote education, training and recreational activities that facilitate responsible dog ownership and better-behaved dogs.

Rules & Regulations for Park Use

PARK HOURS: Sunrise – Sunset, (weather & conditions permitting)

To ensure safety & good times for all, please strictly observe the following rules & regulations. Those found in violation will lose Bark Park/Paw Pass privileges without a refund.

1. Utilize the Bark Park in a responsible manner! Dogs should be fully socialized.
2. All persons and dogs utilizing the park must be registered with the Township. All dogs must have valid County licenses and current rabies shots prior to use. If violations are detected, your privileges will be revoked & you could be subject to a fine. **Please note that key fobs are for use only by registered individuals and registered dogs.**
3. The Bark Park applicant/owner of any dog(s) assumes **all** liability for damages suffered by anyone who is bitten or injured by the applicant/owner's dog while utilizing the park, or any dog that you have allowed to enter the park with your pass.
4. Although it is rare, if your dog is involved in an incident with another dog or person, both owners should complete statements, contact the Police and send reports to Park & Rec and/or Animal Control within 24 hours. While under review by the Animal Control Officer (ACO), all dogs involved in the incident will not be permitted to use the park and fobs will be temporarily deactivated. The ACO's determination in disputes and incident resolution is final. Incident forms and Statement forms are available online: www.warminstertownship.org/barkpark.
5. Remove leashes only in the designated "unleash area".
6. Dogs must be supervised at all times by persons eighteen (18) years or older. Accompany & monitor your dog(s) closely - always have a leash available & ready for use as may be required.
7. Observe weight limits for the large and small dog sides of the park.
8. Clean up after yourself & your dogs - scoop bags are available in the park.
9. No unattended dogs are permitted in the park at any time - abandoning animals is prohibited by law.
10. No more than two (2) dogs per adult are permitted at one time in the park.
11. Children under 10 are not permitted in the Bark Park. Children ages 11-17 must be accompanied by an adult (18 years or older). Some dogs are not raised with children and may react poorly to their behavior.
12. Aggressive dogs are prohibited from utilizing the park – reported cases will result in the loss of park privileges with no refund.
13. Dogs that are in heat or that are sick are prohibited in the park. Closely monitor unneutered dogs.
14. All dogs must be licensed & have current rabies immunization. The use of heartworm & tick prevention products and Bordetella (kennel cough) & DHPP vaccinations are highly recommended. Consult with your vet.
15. Puppies over six (6) months of age must have full immunizations to utilize the park. ***Puppies under six (6) months are not permitted in the park.***
16. No prong (pinch), choke, spiked collars or harnesses are permitted in the park. Snap collars & flat leashes only.
17. Please discourage your dogs from digging any holes. Help us keep the park safe for others' use by filling in any holes created.
18. Smoking, alcohol, dog treats, dog & human food, or glass containers are NOT permitted in the park.
19. Professional dog trainers are not permitted to use this facility for training purposes without written permission from the township.
20. There is no handicapped parking near the Bark Park. All users must park in the main lot and walk down to the Bark Park.

Animal Control Officer (ACO): Warminster Township has an Animal Control Officer whose role ensures the safety and welfare of animals, both domestic and wild, in the township. He is an officer of the law and can cite persons who are acting unlawfully in the parks and township. The ACO will also review complaints and incidents that occur in the Bark Park. During the time of review, all animals/owners involved in the incident are not permitted to use the Bark Park. This process may take several weeks. It is imperative that owners cooperate fully with the ACO so that incidents can be resolved quickly. The ACO's decisions are final.

TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY TELEPHONE #S
Warminster Township Animal Control Officer – 267-317-1380
Warminster Police Department – 215-672-1000

BARK PARK ETIQUETTE FOR DOG OWNERS

Once you and your dog enter the Bark Park, it's tempting to just stand back and watch all the activity. But everybody will have a much more rewarding time if you observe some basic rules. Please remember that dog parks aren't a right, they're a privilege – don't let the bad behavior of a few ruin things for everyone else who utilizes the Park, both now and in the future.

- **Dogs who are members of the Bark Park should be fully socialized before joining the park.**
- **Always keep your eye on your dog.** Mischief can happen quickly. Please remember that you are responsible for your dog's actions & behavior!
- Never leave your dog unattended. Always be aware of what is going on in the Park around you.
- Always clean up after your dog. "Pooper Scooper" bags have been provided - please utilize them as may be required. This is one of the primary reasons that dog parks are closed nationwide, so please pay close attention to your dog and properly **pick up & dispose of their waste** before leaving the facility – There are NO EXCUSES for not picking up after your dog in the park.
- Please make sure your dog is current on all immunizations (Rabies) and has a valid dog license. Please contact Park & Rec to update your Bark Park information when new immunizations are received.
- It is recommended that all dogs utilize flea and tick preventative and are vaccinated for Bordetella (kennel cough) as dogs will have close contact while playing.
- Keep your dog on-leash until you get to the designated off-leash areas. This is not just respectful to other park users; it's much safer for you and your dog.
- If your dog becomes unruly or plays too roughly, please leash them and leave the Park immediately, until such time that your dog is back under control and has settled down.
- No children under the age of 10 are permitted in the park. If you must bring children, ages 11-17 years, please be sure to supervise them closely. They are not permitted to run around the Park unsupervised. Some dogs have never been socialized around children and can be confused interacting with them.
- **SMOKING AND FOOD (even dog treats) ARE PROHIBITED** while in the Park. Cigarette butts and food wrappers are tempting treats to visiting dogs, local wildlife and insects.
- Bringing **unregistered dogs** to the Park is **strictly prohibited** and will subject you to both the loss of your pass and possible fine.
- **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF YOU PERMIT AN UNREGISTERED DOG TO ENTER THE PARK UNDER YOUR PASS, YOU HAVE NOW ACCEPTED FULL RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY FOR THAT DOG'S ACTIONS.**

Visit our website for news on current events, updates, memorials and volunteer information @
www.warminstertownship.org/barkpark.

Bark Park Members have created a Facebook page to help members communicate and set up playdates. This page is not authorized by the Township: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/warminsterbarkpark/>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

Please check out the Bark Park website at www.warminstertownship.org/barkpark for a list of our FAQ's which address many issues related to the establishment of the Dog Park, do's and don'ts, and dog behavior. We highly recommend that Responsible Dog Owners review the FAQ's before submitting a Bark Park application.

BARK PARK CHANGES DURING COVID-19: The Bark Park is open with the following conditions:

- Wear a mask to keep yourself and others safe.
- Be sure the you are social distancing at all times – at least 6 feet. Do not congregate at the pavilion. If this is not being followed, the Bark Park will be closed.
- If others are waiting to enter the park, please limit your time to 20 minutes.
- Bring water for your dog! Water is only available between April-October and/or may be turned off without notice for repairs. Be prepared.
- If you or your dog are sick, stay home
- If we find that members cannot follow the rules, this facility will be closed with no notice.

ENTERING & EXITING THE BARK PARK

The Warminster Township Bark Park is divided into two (2) separate fenced-in areas, providing maximum safety for your dog. When entering & exiting the designated areas please remember to **CLOSE THE GATES SECURELY BEHIND YOU & YOUR DOG**. Open or tied-back gates defeat the purpose of the security provided by the fenced-in areas. Please note that the outer gate is electronic and the use of the access Key fob to enter and a push button to exit will be required.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR PAW PASS KEY FOB IS REQUIRED TO ENTER THE PARK. The gate has a magnetic lock that will secure the gate in a locked position once you have passed through if you close it behind you. You enter and exit each of the areas through the double-gated vestibule. The vestibule is designed with two (2) gates to provide maximum control over your dog and other dogs as you enter and leave the fenced-in areas. If someone is ahead of you, please wait your turn before entering this area. Opening only one gate at a time makes the vestibule a kind of “dog lock”, similar to an airlock on a spacecraft. After closing the outer gate, you should remove your dog’s leash and remain in the vestibule while you observe the behavior of dogs already in the off-leash area.

The Bark Park fencing contains two (2) service gates located on each side of the park. These gates provide access for the Township’s maintenance and landscape crews. **PLEASE DO NOT** enter the fenced-in, off-leash areas through the service/emergency gates. These gates do not provide the control that you need to have over the dogs while entering or exiting the park. They are **NOT** intended for use by park members and are to be kept locked unless in use by authorized personnel. If you find an unlocked maintenance gate, please notify the Township as soon as possible @ (215) 443-5428 during normal business hours (Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–4:30 pm, legal holidays excluded). **If you become locked in the park, Bark Park members are provided with a code location during the workshop to exit via the side maintenance gates** or call (215) 672-1000 and ask the Police Department for assistance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HOW TO ENTER THE BARK PARK

- Open the outer gate with your key fob (‘Paw Pass’) and enter the vestibule with your dog on-leash, then, close the outer main gate behind you and be sure that it is properly secured.
- Remove your dog’s leash. Having your dog on a leash when confronting an off-leash dog can be a recipe for trouble - your dog may feel the need to protect you or feel vulnerable and fearful. Tugging on the leash puts your dog at a disadvantage with other dogs. It is restrained but placed in a chest-out, raised-up, aggressive pose that can cause the off-leash dog to feel threatened by the overall situation.
- Before you open the inner gate, check to be sure that the inner gate area is not congested with excited dogs waiting to pounce on your pup or trying to get out as you enter. Pay close attention to the receptions from the dogs already inside the park area – is it favorable or not? If the dogs already inside aren’t friendly, put the leash back on your dog and remove it from the area until the park is less congested.
- Open the inner gate to the appropriate side of the park. Enter the off-leash area with your dog, then close the inner gate properly behind you and move your dog away from the entrance area.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HOW TO EXIT THE BARK PARK

- Before you open the inner gate, please check to be sure that the outer gate is properly closed and that any other dogs aren’t trying to leave with you.
- Open the inner gate and enter the vestibule with your dog, then close the inner gate properly behind you and ensure that the latch is in the downward position. Put the leash securely on your dog then open the outer gate by pushing the brass doorbell button to the right of the gate and exit from the vestibule with your dog. Please note that you must use this button to exit the Park. If you become locked in the Park, check the code and exit via the maintenance gates. Or, seek help from either another member in the Park or call (215) 672-1000 and ask the Police Department for assistance.
- Close the outer gate behind you and please be sure that it is properly secured. The latch is electronic and should lock on its own within 10 seconds, once it has been closed.

WARMINSTER TOWNSHIP BARK PARK ACCESS "PAW-PASS" APPLICATION FORM

Pass valid until 12/31/2021

Assigned KEY FOB # _____

(CIRCLE ONE)

Resident Pass

Non-Resident Pass

Date of Application: _____ - (\$25.00)

_____ - (\$35.00)

Name of Owner: (last name/first name) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact : _____

Telephone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Names of other individuals permitted to use this PAW PASS: _____

Use additional sheet for other dogs in same household.

Dog # 1

Canine's Date of Birth _____

Name of Dog: _____ Breed: _____ Weight: lbs. _____

Color(s): _____ Sex: _____ Spayed or Neutered? _____ Age: _____

License #: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____

Rabies #: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____

County that the License was issued from: _____

Dog # 2 (If Applicable)

Date of Birth _____

Name of Dog: _____ Breed: _____ Weight: lbs. _____

Color(s): _____ Sex: _____ Spayed/Neutered: _____ Age: _____

License #: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____

Rabies #: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____

County that the License was issued from: _____

(FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

Scheduled Safety Class: _____ FEE PAID: \$ _____ DATE PAID: ____/____/____

Attended Safety Class: _____ Receipt # _____ CHECK #: _____ INITIALS: _____

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK & RELEASE OF LIABILITY WAIVER FORM

Acceptance of the terms & conditions of this release and adherence to the established Warminster Township Bark Park Rules & Regulations are conditions of the "Paw-Pass" issuance, retention and renewal. Passes are for use only by those listed on the application.

I (we) do hereby acknowledge and accept that I (we) have voluntarily applied to participate and utilize, with my dog(s) listed on the Bark Park Application, the Warminster Township Bark Park located in Warminster Township, PA. I fully understand and acknowledge that unleashing my dog and being physically present at the Bark Park area involves risks of injury to me, any individual accompanying me, other persons, my dog(s) and other dog(s), including but not limited to, risks resulting from aggressive dogs, unpredictable behavior and lack of proper training. **I (we) also acknowledge and agree that I (we) am physically able to accompany my dog(s) from the main parking lot to the Bark Park and to monitor them in all areas of the Bark Park for the duration of our visit.**

I understand and assume that despite the efforts of Warminster Township to ensure owners have complied, there is a risk that not all dogs present in the Bark Park are licensed and vaccinated for rabies as may be required, which could result in injury to a person or a dog. Additional risks include, but are not limited to: dog fights; dog bites; theft or unlawful capture; escape over and under the fences; through an open gate; vegetation or standing water that may be unhealthy or poisonous if consumed; burrs or seeds that may become lodged in the dog's coat, feet, eyes, nose, or ears; mosquitoes; spiders; ticks; chiggers; fleas and other insects; and wildlife typically found in and around the park, such as foxes; deer; raccoons; opossums; muskrats; field mice; reptiles, turtles, etc. It is further my understanding that usage of the Bark Park is self-directed and shall not be directly supervised by an agent or employee of the Warminster Township. Additionally, I accept and acknowledge that I assume any and all risks associated with the usage of the Bark Park, including fixtures and equipment, in an unsupervised and self-directed manner. **I hereby agree to attend a Free Bark Park member workshop prior to receipt of my Paw Pass and my Paw Pass is valid until 12/31 of the year purchased.**

By accepting the prescribed terms and conditions and signing this release, I do hereby agree to indemnify and save harmless the Warminster Township, its agents, officers, and employees and assigns from and against all loss, cost, damages, expense and liability resulting from my use of the Bark Park, including death, sickness, injury, and disease to any person or dog, or destruction to property, real or personal, arising directly from my use of the Bark Park. I accept and acknowledge personal responsibility and liability for any injury or damage caused as a result of the wrongful or aggressive behavior of my dog, whether the loss occurs as a result of biting, jumping, running, scratching, digging, charging or any other behavior. In addition, I further agree to abide by any municipal, State and Federal laws that would govern dog ownership. In the event of a dog park incident and investigation by the proper authorities, I hereby agree to remove my dog from the park until such a time that the incident is resolved.

I do hereby acknowledge that I have carefully read this release of liability, and fully understand, agree with, and accept the terms and conditions that have been outlined above and in the attached literature. Further, I acknowledge that I have reviewed a copy of the Bark Park Rules & Regulations for the Bark Park's use and agree to abide by said rules as set forth.

I do hereby waive any and all rights that I may have to institute legal proceedings to recover cost of any kind. I have carefully read this release of liability, and fully understand, agree with, and accept its terms and conditions as outlined. I hereby do certify that I am over the age of 18 years, sober and of sound mind. I have reviewed a copy of the Bark Park Rules & Regulations for the Bark Park's use and agree to abide by these rules. Further, I understand that all fees paid are non-refundable and that my "Paw-Pass" access key fob will be revoked by the Township for misuse of the Park; failure to abide by the stated rules and regulations or repeated aggression on the part of any one of the dogs under **ownership or supervision of myself, family members, caretakers or my assigns.**

Print Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____