

Hondo Dog Park Q & A

Q Who operates Hondo Dog Park?

Hondo Dog Park is owned and operated by the City of Hillsboro. It is open to the public (providing park rules are followed) from dawn to dusk 7 days a week, except Mondays and Thursday when it is closed until Noon for routine maintenance. The park is officially adopted by the Hillsboro Dog Association, whose members volunteer to help with dog owner education and projects at the park. For more information on how you can get involved, visit www.hillsborodogs.org.

Q Where does the park's name come from?

The park is named in honor of Hillsboro Police K9 Dog Officer 'Hondo', who lost his life in the line of duty in 1997. There are tributes to Hondo at the park, including a bronze plaque mounted on a stone column at the entrance and a non-functioning painted hydrant.

Q Why are the grass areas closed during the winter and rainy time periods?

We have not specified definite closure dates, as it will be truly weather dependent, but it is essential to close the grassy areas of the park in order to maintain an enjoyable and safe dog park. If the grass is damaged, it can create an unsafe and muddy environment for dogs and people, and it can take months or longer to repair. Right now is an especially critical time for the young grass.

Q Will the grass areas ever be open during winter?

It is our hope that breaks in the wet weather will allow the grass areas to occasionally be open during the winter. Ultimately, it is a delicate balance in order to provide this service to the public while also keeping the grass intact and maintaining a quality park for all to enjoy.

Q Why isn't there a specific small dog area for the winter?

The design of the park and winter area was based on input from a citizen committee of dog owners as well as research of other dog parks. It was anticipated that the number of users would be lower during the colder and wetter times, and we also hope to be able to open the small/timid dog area some in winter. All owners need to be responsible for their dogs so everyone can enjoy the park year round.

Q Why isn't there a dog drinking water fountain in the winter area?

Water was not installed in the winter area because the water is turned off in the entire park in the winter due to cold temperatures. People are welcome to bring water for their dogs.

Q Why shouldn't we leave toys or water bowls to share with other dogs?

Unfortunately, dogs carry and spread health problems just like humans. While it is thoughtful to leave dog toys or a container for dogs to drink water out of, it could cause the spread of viruses such as kennel cough and parvo. If you bring such items to the park, please take them with you when you leave.

Q What do I do if an owner is not controlling an aggressive dog?

Owners who see unattended dogs or other serious incidents such as dog biting should call Washington County Animal Services at 503-846-7041. After hours call the non-emergency police dispatch at 503-629-0111. Emergencies should be reported to 911. Please refer to the park rules posted in the park.

Q Why are the park rules so important?

The park rules are critical to the success of Hondo Dog Park, and it is each owner's responsibility to understand and follow them. Park rules are posted in the kiosk and all three entrances to the park areas.

