

## Why Aren't Dogs Allowed Off Leashes In County Parks?

- **The potential for injury to other visitors and other pets.** Most dogs are friendly, even to unfamiliar people and pets. However, some are not, and in addition a large dog might jump up on someone in a friendly fashion and knock them down. Pet owners can be held liable for injuries or damage caused by their animals.
- **The potential for frightening other visitors, especially children.** Even if a dog is friendly, people sometimes may be frightened to see a dog running up to them. It is unacceptable for park visitors to be made uncomfortable or frightened by unrestrained pets.
- **The potential for disturbance to wildlife, especially sensitive species like ground-nesting birds.** Virtually all dogs will pursue wildlife, either playfully or with serious intent to do harm. Some of our parks are home to endangered or threatened species, which are especially vulnerable. Even if a dog does not actually catch the animal it pursues, it may cause the animal to lose precious energy or time it needs to care for its young. Even if a dog does not actively pursue wildlife at all, its mere presence may be enough to scare off wildlife. Park visitors who are looking for wildlife may be less able to enjoy themselves as a result.

For the above reasons, the six-foot leash requirement **WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED**. Contact us at the Park Office to report a violation or to share comments or concerns. Thank you for your understanding in preserving the quality of everyone's visits to our county parks!

(Revised 6/2016)

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks & Recreation is dedicated to preserving open space and natural resources, providing safe parks and facilities, and offering educational and recreational opportunities, all contributing to an enhanced quality of life for present and future generations.

### SUMMARY OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

*The rules and regulations governing use of facilities or properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation are promulgated in accordance with provisions of the N.J. Statutes Title 40:32-7.12, which reads as follows:*

**"The Board of Chosen Freeholders may by resolution make, alter, amend, and repeal rules and regulations for the supervision, regulation and control of all activities carried on, conducted, sponsored, arranged, or provided for in connection with a public golf course or other county recreational, playground or public entertainment facility, and for the protection of property, and may prescribe and enforce fines and penalties for the violation of any such rule or regulation."**

**These rules and regulations have been promulgated for the protection of our patrons and for the facilities and natural resources administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation.**

**Permits:** A fully executed Facility Use Permit, issued by the County of Hunterdon for any activity shall authorize the activity only insofar as it may be performed in strict accordance with the terms and conditions thereof. The State of NJ, County of Hunterdon, or the local municipality may require additional permits.

**Prohibited Acts:** The violation of any Municipal, State, or Federal law. Advertising, solicitation, ice skating, ice fishing, and any other on-ice activities, downhill skiing, bathing, fuel powered modeled aircraft, the release of any animal, explosives of any kind, poisons of any kind, after-hours use, alcohol without a permit in a non-designated area, controlled dangerous substances, weapons, posting of signage, inappropriate attire, and climbing on, or rappelling from any cliff, rock face, or boulder, with, or without the use of specialized equipment.

**Regulated Activity:** The sale of merchandise, aviation, boating, cross-country skiing, bicycling, and sledding. Battery powered modeled aircraft, and horses must be in designated areas, dogs must be restrained with a leash not exceeding six feet, pet waste must be removed, camping/fires are by permit only. All groups of 15 or more must obtain a permit for use of any Park area.

**Prohibited Acts for the Protection of Property:** No person shall make, excavate on, destroy, paint, fill in, cut, remove or tamper with any property, organic or inorganic.

**Prohibited Acts for the Protection of Natural Resources:** No person shall disturb wildlife or vegetation in any manner. No person shall pollute waters, litter, dump debris, or release helium balloons in any property. It is illegal to remove any natural resource from, or introduce any plant material, bulbs, or seeds to any property without a proper permit or license.

**Prohibited Acts for the Protection of People:** No person shall obstruct a county employee/official, interfere with a visitor, conduct any unsafe act, or cause a hazardous condition.

**Vehicles:** All the provisions of the N.J. State Motor Vehicle Act apply. Vehicles are not allowed in unauthorized areas. Parking is allowed in designated areas only. **ATVs, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles are prohibited on County Park lands.**

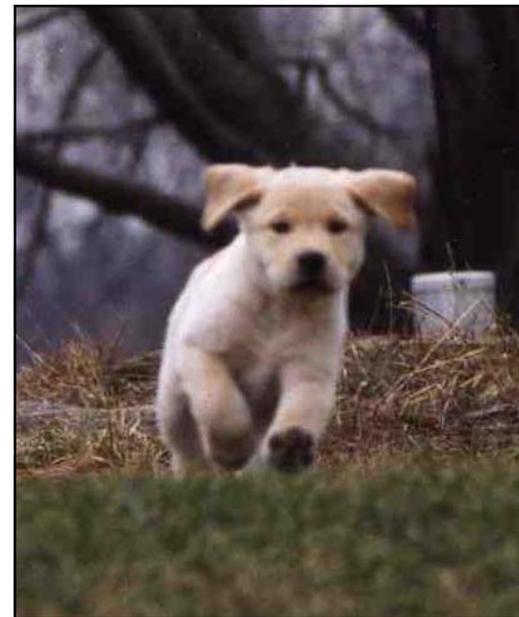
**Enforcement:** The rules and regulations of the County shall be enforced by duly authorized Rangers or representatives of the County under the provision of N.J.S.A. 40:32-2, thru 40:32-7.13. Any person who enters into a County Park for any purpose whatsoever has a duty and is presumed to be aware of the provisions of these rules and regulations governing the use of the facilities and properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation.

**Penalties:** Any person violating any of the provisions of these regulations shall, upon conviction before a court or other adjudicative body of jurisdiction, be liable for the replacement, repair or restoration of damaged property, if any, and shall pay a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or other amount in the discretion of the court or other adjudicative body or may be sentenced to imprisonment in the County jail for the term not exceeding ninety (90) days, or both, provided that this section shall not supersede any applicable penalty provision for specific offenses, which may be set forth in the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice, N.J.S.A. 2C:1-1, et seq., or in any other applicable state or federal law.

**NOTE:** County Park Rangers of the Division of Parks and Recreation have the authority to issue summons, and make arrests for violations of rules and regulations governing the use of facilities and properties administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation. This is only a summary of the rules and regulations. Rules applying to special conditions, activities, or situations may be supplemental to these rules and regulations. When special rules apply, they will be posted at affected areas. The complete text of regulations is available for inspection at the Park administration office in Clinton Township during regular business hours.

## County Off-Leash Dog Area Guide

314 State Hwy 12, Flemington



Hunterdon County

**Division of Parks & Recreation**

PO Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

1020 State Route 31, Lebanon, NJ 08833

Telephone (908) 782-1158

Fax (908) 806-4057

E-mail: [parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

Website: [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us)

(click on "Parks & Recreation")

*Office Hours:*

*Mon.-Wed, Fri. 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM*

*Thur. 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM*

## Rules & Regulations

The following rules/regulations are intended to supplement and not supersede public laws of the Township of Raritan:

1. The Hunterdon County Off-Leash Dog Area is open to the public from dawn to dusk, daily.
2. Users must abide by all Rules and Regulations governing the use of Hunterdon County Parklands and must comply with the directions of County Personnel.
3. Children under ten (10) years of age are not permitted within the fenced enclosure. Children between the ages of ten (10) and fifteen (15) years of age are permitted within the fenced enclosure, under close adult supervision. Children sixteen (16) years of age and older are permitted within the fenced enclosure without adult supervision.
4. Use is limited to two dogs at one time, per person. Please limit use to 30 minutes.
5. Dogs showing unacceptable behavior towards people or other dogs must be leashed immediately and removed from the area.
6. Puppies under six months of age are prohibited.
7. Dogs must be spayed or neutered.
8. Dogs must wear flat-buckle collars, displaying a valid license and current vaccinations tag.
9. Users must properly secure access gates and leash their dogs prior to entering and upon leaving the off-leash dog area. Users must carry a leash for each dog within the fenced enclosure, at all times.
10. Users must clean up after their dogs.
11. Rawhide and other dog food products are prohibited within the fenced enclosure.
12. Food and beverages (for human consumption) are prohibited within the fenced enclosure.

Users are responsible for any damage caused by dogs, including, but not limited to: digging, scratching, chewing, and illness, including damage to the off-leash dog facility, access pathways, and parking areas, vehicles, property, and pedestrians.

## County Off-Leash Dog Area

**Location:** The County Off-Leash Dog Area is located at 314 State Highway 12, Flemington 08822 (Raritan Township) at the County Complex. This area is open from sunrise to sunset. *No restroom facilities are available.*

### **FROM THE EAST—SOMERVILLE AREA:**

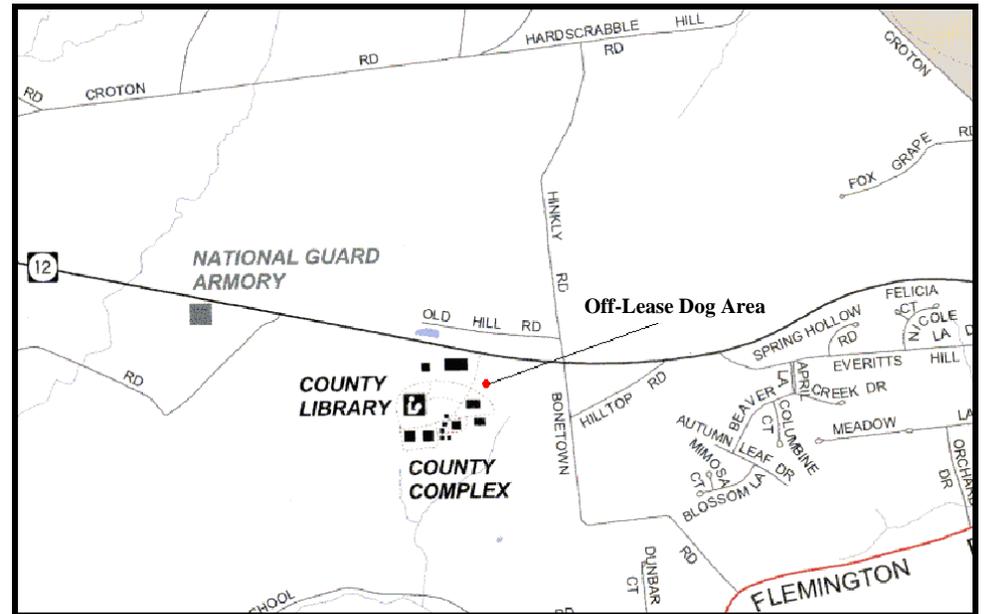
Take Route 80 to Route 287 South. Take the exit for Route 202/206 South. Stay on Route 202 South, over the Somerville Circle, to Flemington. At the Flemington Circle, take the second right-hand exit onto Route 12 West. Stay on Route 12 through two more circles. The Route 12 Complex is on the left, approximately 2 miles from the last circle. The Dog Area is on the left as you enter the complex.

### **FROM THE NORTH (CLINTON—ROUTE 78/22 AREA):**

Follow Route 31 South toward Flemington. At the Flemington Circle, take the first exit onto Route 12 West. Follow directions above.

### **FROM THE SOUTH—TRENTON AREA:**

Follow Route 31 North to the Flemington Circle. Go 3/4 of the way around the circle and get onto Route 12 West. Follow directions above.



## Other Dog Areas in the County

**Kingwood Township:** Horseshoe Bend Park, 178 Horseshoe Bend Road, 908-996-4276

**Readington Township:** Hillcrest Park, Hillcrest Road, 908-534-4051

Both parks have a fenced-in, off-leash dog area. These areas are not part of the County

