

# Lower Merion Township Parks and Recreation

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## **Dog Laws**

### What are the Pennsylvania Laws?

- All dogs three (3) months or older must be licensed by January 1 of each year.
- All dogs must be UNDER CONTROL. This means that when your dog is not on your property, it must be under the DIRECT control of you or a handler. The best way to control your dog is with a LEASH. Remember, you are responsible for any damage caused by your dog.
- All dogs three months of age and older must be vaccinated against rabies.

### What is the Lower Merion Township Code?

#### Chapter 90: Health and Sanitation § 90-53 Control of dogs and cats.

No person owning, harboring, keeping or in charge of any dog or cat shall:

- (1) Allow such dog or cat to run at large upon the public streets of this municipality or upon the property of others; or
- (2) Cause or allow a dog or cat to soil, defile or defecate upon any other person's private property without the permission of such other person or upon any public property. Where such person shall immediately remove all feces deposited by the animal and dispose of the same in a sanitary manner, the nuisance created by defecation shall be considered abated, and such person shall not be in violation of this section.

A complete copy of Chapter 90 of the Lower Merion Township Code, Health and Sanitation, is available on the Lower Merion Township web site, [www.lowermerion.org](http://www.lowermerion.org).

### Why Get your Dog Licensed?

- If your dog gets lost, a current license, vaccination tag or a microchip ID is the fastest way to get your dog back home.
- PA Dog wardens randomly conduct compliance checks in neighborhoods to ensure all dogs are licensed. Violators will be fined.
- Summary violations can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per dog plus court costs.
- Misdemeanor violations of the PA dog law cost up to a maximum of \$2,000 plus court costs.

Licenses may be purchased through your county treasurer, Lower Merion Township Police Department or at an issuing agent.  
For more information, visit [www.licenseyourdogPA.com](http://www.licenseyourdogPA.com).

## About Owning a Dog in Pennsylvania

Owning a dog is one of the great American pastimes and privileges. Dogs fill the role of a companion, guide, hunter, guardian, herdsman and entertainer. But owning a dog is a major responsibility as well. That responsibility extends not only to proper care and training of you dog, but also to your responsibility for the dog's behavior. A proper understanding of the responsibilities of dog ownership is necessary in today's complex society.

Allowing your dog to run at large or allowing your dog or cat to defecate without removing same is a nuisance and violation of law.

## Controlling your Dog in Public Places

Keeping your dog under control means:

- Ensuring your dog is not causing a nuisance or danger.
- Being able to get an immediate and desired response from the dog by use of a leash, voice commands, hand signals, whistles or other effective means.

What you may see as playful or boisterous, but harmless behavior, others may see as "out of control" behavior. Dogs can be distracted, threatened or startled and many people are afraid of dogs. These laws are in place for the safety of Humans and Canines alike.

## Lower Merion Township Parks Dogs are Permitted On Leash

### Ashbridge Park

1301 Montgomery Ave, Bryn Mawr

### Austin Memorial Park

Lancaster & Norwood Aves, Rosemont

### Black Rock Road Site

Black Rock & Dove Lake Rds, Gladwyne

### Cynwyd Heritage Trail

398 Trevor Lane, Bala Cynwyd

### Cynwyd Station Park

321 Conshohocken State Rd, Bala Cynwyd

### Eco Valley Park

400 Mary Waters Ford Rd, Bala Cynwyd

### Flat Rock Park

122 River Rd, Gladwyne

### General Wayne Park

Wooded Area Only  
305 Maplewood Ave, Merion Station

### Henry Lane Park

Henry Ln & Stony Ln, Gladwyne

### Kenealy Nature Park

Youngs Ford Rd & Monticello Dr, Gladwyne

### Linwood Park

199 E Athens Ave, Ardmore

### Merion Botanical Park

100 Merion Rd, Merion

### Merion Square Road Park Site

Old Gulph & Merion Sq Rds, Gladwyne

### Mill Creek Valley Park

Mill Creek & Rose Glen Rds, Penn Valley

### Pencoyd Park

1300 N Woodbine Avenue, Penn Valley

### Penn Wynne Park

Wooded Area Only  
214 E Manoa Rd, Wynnewood

### Righters Mill Road Site

Manayunk & Conshohocken St Rds, Narberth

### Rolling Hill Park

1301 Rose Glen Rd, Gladwyne

### Sharpe Bird Sanctuary

405 W Montgomery Avenue, Haverford

### Shortridge Memorial Park

Signed Designated Area Only  
400 Shortridge Dr, Wynnewood

### West Mill Creek Park

Mill Creek & Old Gulph Rds, Gladwyne

### Williamson Road Site

Youngs Ford & Williamson Rds, Gladwyne

## **Lower Merion Township Off Leash Dog Program**

The purpose of this program is to increase recreational opportunities in the Lower Merion Township park system by enabling residents to walk or exercise their dog(s) off-leash. There are currently three (3) Off Leash Dog Areas in Lower Merion Township.

### **Rolling Hill Park: Unfenced Area 1301 Rose Glen Road, Gladwyne, PA 19035**

- The **Unfenced** Off-leash area is restricted to signed, designated trails and is permitted from Sunrise until 9:30am and 3:30 until 6:00pm seven days a week. Dogs must be kept on-leash everywhere else in the park, except the fenced dog area.
- Dogs must be kept on-leash in the parking area and entrance trail until entering the woods and trails identified as the Off-Leash area.
- When walking through fields, dog owners/handlers must remain on the trail and all dogs must be kept leashed to protect the meadow and grassland wildlife.
- **On-Leash Areas:** Dogs are permitted, but must be leashed at all times where these signs are posted.

### **Rolling Hill Park: Fenced Area 1301 Rose Glen Road, Gladwyne, PA 19035**

- The **Fenced** Off-leash dog area is open from Sunrise until Sunset seven days a week.
- No food, drink or rawhide is allowed in the fenced area.
- No children under 6 year of age are permitted and must be under an adult's supervision at all times.
- Puppies under 6 months are not permitted.
- Dogs in heat are not permitted.
- Pinch and choke chains and spiked collars are not permitted.

### **West Mill Creek Park Mill Creek & Old Gulph Roads, Gladwyne, PA 19035**

- **Off-Leash Areas:** Dogs are permitted from Sunrise until Sunset seven days a week.
- Dogs must be kept on leash in the parking area and entrance trail until inside the park.
- Dogs can access Mill Creek only via identified stream access points.
- Dogs are not permitted in the wetlands meadow or the riparian buffer.

## Dog License FAQs

### **How do I obtain a Pennsylvania Dog License?**

Licenses may be purchased through your county treasurer, Lower Merion Township Police Department or at an issuing agent. For more information, visit [www.licenseyourdogPA.com](http://www.licenseyourdogPA.com).

### **Am I required to have a Pennsylvania Dog License for my dog?**

Yes. All dogs three (3) months or older must be licensed by January 1 of each year.

### **Is there a fee to purchase a Pennsylvania Dog License?**

Yes. Fees vary based upon the duration of the license (annual or lifetime) and if your pet is spayed or neutered. Discounts are also available to older adults and people with disabilities.

### **Who enforces these Dog License Laws?**

The Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement is responsible for ensuring the welfare of all dogs and puppies in kennels, regulating activities pertaining to dogs that are classified as dangerous, and oversees annual licensure and rabies vaccinations for dogs. Violators can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per violation plus court costs.

### **What Parks allow dogs?**

Dogs on leashes are allowed in some parks provided the owner or person in charge of the dog immediately cleans up and properly disposes of all feces. Please see the list above of parks where dogs are permitted on leash.

### **What are the park hours?**

Sunrise to sunset (except where posted).

### **Are dogs allowed off-leash in any parks?**

Off-leash permits may be purchased to exercise their dogs off-leash in designated areas of Rolling Hill Park in Gladwyne and West Mill Creek Park in Penn Valley. Please visit [www.lowermerion.org](http://www.lowermerion.org) and go to the Off-Leash Dog Program page for more information or contact the Parks & Recreation Department office at 610-645-6220.

### **How do I obtain a Lower Merion Township Off Leash Dog Permit?**

Permits can be purchased, on-line (fees apply), in person or via mail through Lower Merion Township Parks and Recreation Department. Please visit [www.lowermerionrec.com](http://www.lowermerionrec.com) for more information.