

PARKS FOR MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Not only is it important for us to stay fit to maintain our health for a long and active life, it is important for the ones we love to stay active. For many of us, our dogs are considered members of the family, and we are charged with making sure they have a fit diet and regular exercise. Since Miami-Dade Parks appreciates how much dogs mean to their owners and to help dog lovers enjoy their pets outdoors, we have established three types of parks to play in: Dog Parks and Dog Run Parks for unleashed dogs, and Dog Friendly Parks for leashed dogs.

Dog Parks are located within a larger park and allow dogs

to play and run free off their leash within a fenced-in area. At the Amelia Earhart Bark Park, five acres have been designated for your dog to run, jump and do stunts. Amenities include paved walkways, benches, shade trees, waste dispenser stations, and specially designed drinking and spray fountains for dogs and their owners. Our second Dog Park, the Northeast Regional Dog Park at East Greynolds Park is very popular among dog owners in the area. The 1.76 acres are divided into two sections, one for small dogs and another for larger dogs. The two sections feature fencing, landscaping, walkways, shade structures, site furniture, hosing stations, and water fountains for both pets and owners.

Our second type of park, a Dog Run Park, is a park with a dedicated fenced area for owners to exercise their dogs and let them run without wearing leashes. However, unlike the designated Dog Parks, a Dog Run Park does

not have water facilities. Currently, there is one Dog Run facility at Lago Mar Park. However, keep an eye out and an ear cocked for a future Dog Run site planned for Tropical Park.

Our third, and final type of park is the Dog Friendly Park where dog owners can now stroll, run and play with their dogs at 11 neighborhood parks, as long as their dogs are on a leash.

To make sure all residents have the chance to enjoy the park, we ask that you clean up after your pet. Many of our parks listed have bag dispensers and waste containers for just that purpose. Now that you know all the fun there is to have, bring your best friend out for a fun day of play at Miami-Dade Parks.

DOG PARKS

Bark Park at Amelia Earhart Park • Northeast Regional Dog Park at East Greynolds Park

DOG FRIENDLY

Acadia Park • Biscayne Shores and Gardens • Deerwood Park • Kevin Broils Park • Kings Meadow Park • Rockdale Park • San Jacinto Park • Snapper Creek Park • Spanish Lakes Park • Tamiami Trail North Park • West Kendale Lakes Park

DOG RUN

Lago Mar Park

Annette

Photo by Ryan Holloway

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DOG PARKS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, VISIT THE WEB AT MIAMIDADE.GOV/PARKS

progress report...

By Eric Hansen
and Angus Laney

*"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood".
– Daniel Burnham*

FEATURED PROGRAM

Recreation Program Plan

Charged with providing high quality recreation programs, services and experiences, an increasing number of Park and Recreation Departments across the country are in search of processes that will validate their importance as providers. A great many are looking for validation through accreditation programs. Many accreditation programs are based on self-assessment and peer review using national standards of best practices. Some of the benefits of becoming an accredited agency can be that the public will feel comfortable that the agency (1) will provide well-administered programs and services in accord with approved professional practices; (2) have in place external financial support and pass on savings to the public; (3) is recognized as a quality governmental service; (4) will be held accountable and responsive to meet community expectations and needs; and (5) will strive to improve customer satisfaction.

In 2005, the Department applied for and participated in two accreditation processes. Feedback received from both accreditation teams recommended the development of a Recreation Program Plan.

In 2006, the Park and Recreation Department began the process to develop a new Recreation Program Plan which would: (1) provide innovative, efficient and effective programs and services that are outcome based; (2) determine effective strategies for the allocation of resources; (3) maximize partnerships opportunities; (4) be attached to performance measures

and a process for systematic program evaluation; and (5) guide capital development.

The Recreation Program Plan will impact program content and service delivery in order to better meet the needs and expectations of the community. The Plan will provide staff with a new vision and clear goals, strategies and actions aimed at improving our parks and increasing recreation opportunities. Implementation will create a system that is fair and equitable; effective and efficient; accessible and inclusive; and one that will have a defined focus on mission-led program areas.

