

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COPPELL, TEXAS

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COPPELL, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING CHAPTER 9 ‘GENERAL REGULATIONS’, ARTICLE 9-11 ‘PARKS AND RECREATION CODE’, BY ADOPTION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR DOG PARK USE AND OPERATION BY ADDING A NEW SECTION, SECTION ‘9-11-3A’, ‘DOG PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS’, AS NOTED; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY OF FINE NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000.00) FOR EACH OFFENSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Coppell, Texas, finds it necessary for the protection of the health, safety, and well-being of its citizens that said amendments are adopted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COPPELL, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That the Chapter 9, ‘General Regulations’, Article 9-11 ‘Parks and Recreation Code’, is hereby amended by adopting rules and regulations for dog park use and operation by adding a new Section, Section ‘9-11-3A’, ‘Dog Park Rules and Regulations’, and shall hereafter read as follows:

“CHAPTER 9. GENERAL REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 9-11. PARKS AND RECREATION CODE

.....

Section. 9-11-3A. Dog park rules and regulations.

A. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this ordinance, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

All-weather paddock means the areas within the dog park based that has turf-based ground coverage and is not limited to access by dogs regardless of weight.

Animal control officer means the person designated by the town to represent and act for the town in the impoundment of animals, in the controlling of stray animals, and all other matters as otherwise required by this Article and Chapter 9 of this Code.

Dog means a domesticated animal that is a member of the canine family, except any puppy under four (4) months old.

Dog park means that portion of MacArthur Park that is specifically designated as a place for dogs to exercise and play off leash in a controlled environment consisting of large dog paddock, small dog paddock, or all-weather paddock under the supervision, possession, or control of their owner(s).

Large dog paddock shall mean that portion of the dog park dedicated and enclosed by a fence or gate for dogs weighing over thirty (30) pounds or more.

Owner shall mean any person over the age of sixteen (16) years old who is the owner, handler, or otherwise in control of the dog.

Small dog paddock shall mean that portion of the dog park dedicated and enclosed for dogs weighing less than thirty (30) pounds.

B. Enforcement of ordinance provisions.

- a) No owner shall attend the enclosed portion of any paddock area of the dog park except to at all times be in compliance with the provisions of this Article.
- b) Law enforcement officers and animal control officers are authorized to enforce the provisions of this ordinance.

C. Running at large.

Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary of this Code, any dog confined within a dog park and located in view and voice control of its owner is not considered to be running at large.

D. Dog park rules.

The following rules govern the use and enjoyment of the dog park:

- a) The small and large dog paddocks are open daily from 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., except Wednesdays when they are closed for routine maintenance. The all-weather paddock is open daily, except on the second Tuesday of each month for routine maintenance. All paddocks may be closed due to inclement weather, unsafe conditions, or other maintenance needs as directed by the Director of Community Experiences or their designee.
- b) Dogs must display current identification tags in the manner provided by Sections 9-1-4, and 9-1-5, of this code and must be healthy, parasite free, and properly vaccinated, as required by Chapter 9 of this Code, or have a license issued by another Texas municipality. If requested by an animal control officer, owners must provide current vaccination and registration information. All owners, as defined herein, shall not bring a dog into the dog park except in compliance with the rules set forth in this section.

- c) In the event of dog bite or injury to a person or dog, the owner must exchange current identification tag information, addresses, phone numbers, and any other information to assist in locating the dog(s). If the dog bite involves a human, the incident must be reported immediately in accordance with Texas law by calling the city animal services division or police department.
- d) No other species of domesticated or wild animals other than dogs are permitted in the dog park.
- e) No puppies under four (4) months of age are allowed in the dog park.
- f) A maximum of three (3) dogs per owner are permitted in the dog park at any one time.
- g) Dogs must be leashed when entering or exiting the dog park and off leash while inside of the designated paddocks.
- h) Upon entering the dog park, dogs must be unleashed only after entering the double-gated holding areas, not while inside the off-leash areas of the dog park. The outside gate must remain closed while the inside gate is open. Upon exiting the off-leash area of the dog park or paddocks, dogs must be leashed inside the double-gated holding areas prior to exiting the dog park.
- i) Dog handlers or owners must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
- j) Children under the age of ten (10) years are prohibited from entering the dog park. Children between the ages of 10 to 15 must be under strict adult supervision while at the park.
- k) Children are not allowed to run with or chase dogs in the dog park, paddocks, or holding areas.
- l) Only dogs weighing thirty (30) pounds or less are allowed in the area designated for small dogs; however, the remainder of the dog park is open to dogs of all sizes, including dogs weighing thirty (30) pounds or less.
- m) Dogs that are aggressive, in heat/ovulating, sick, or have open wounds are not allowed in the dog park.
- n) Owners are required to pick up and dispose of their dog's feces both inside and outside of the dog park.
- o) No carriages, bicycles, skateboards, scooters, skates, roller blades, sport activities, children's toys, wading pools, or any motorized vehicles are allowed in the dog park, unless necessary by reason of special physical needs or medical disability.
- p) No smoking, alcoholic beverages, food, glass containers, or dog treats are allowed in the dog park.

- q) No owner shall permit, suffer or allow their dog(s) to dig, excavate, burrow tunnel, or dredge the turf within the respective paddocks. Owners must report and repair any damage caused by the prohibited action within this subsection. If the owner fails to repair any damage caused by digging, the town may assess any damages and costs against the owner as provided in Section 9-1-2.
- r) Dog grooming is not permitted in the dog park, paddock areas, or otherwise, in the park.
- s) Owners must remain in the park and keep their dog in voice and sight control at all times.
- t) Spiked, prong, choke, or pinch collars are not allowed in the dog park.
- u) Owners must wear shoes at all times in the dog park.
- v) Balls and plastic discs are the only toys allowed in the dog park; no other dog toys or chew toys are permitted.
- w) No commercial use of the dog park is allowed, including dog training classes, solicitations and/or advertisements except as provided by Section 9-1-20 of this Code.
- x) All other general park rules and town ordinances must be obeyed while using the dog park.

E. Penalty.

Violators of this Article may be subject to removal and suspension from the dog park, by the Director of Community Experiences or his designee, or any animal control officer. Any owner or other person acting in violation of this Article shall constitute a Class-C misdemeanor.

F. Dangerous dog or dangerous animal prohibition.

Any dog designated, declared, or found to be a “dangerous dog” or “dangerous animal” in accordance with Chapter 9 of this Code, under state law, or under the ordinances of any governmental entity in this state is not allowed in the dog park.

G. Public signage authority.

The Director of Community Experiences Department may erect appropriate public signage concerning any requirements under this Article.

.....”

SECTION 2. That any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions or terms of this ordinance shall be subject to the same penalty as provided for in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of the City of Coppell, as heretofore amended, and upon conviction shall be punished

by a fine not to exceed the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense; and each and every day such violation shall continue shall be deemed to constitute a separate offense.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance shall be cumulative of all other Ordinances and shall not repeal any of the provisions of such Ordinances, except for those instances where there are direct conflicts with the provisions of this Ordinance. That all ordinances of the City, or parts thereof, that are in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby repealed to the extent that they are inconsistent with this Ordinance. All other ordinances of the City not in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage, and publication of the caption, as the law and charter in such cases provide.

DULY PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Coppell, Texas, on the ____ day of _____, 2026.

APPROVED:

Wes Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lauren Thoden, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Robert E. Hager, City Attorney
(02/10/2026: 4905-7395-5206,v.5)