

Keeping your dog on a leash in public will keep your dog safe from traffic injuries, altercations with other dogs, and prevent them from becoming lost.

It will also protect the community by preventing dogs from becoming a nuisance or danger. Not all people like dogs, and some may have had a traumatic experience with a dog, or their own dog may be reactive to other dogs.

Does my dog need to be on a leash?

In the City of Whittlesea, dogs must be leashed in all public areas except designated off-leash zones. Regardless of the area, dogs should always remain within effective control. Owners are required to clean up after their dogs and must not leave them unattended in public spaces. Always check local signage or consult the Community Local Law for details on restricted areas.

What are the rules in off-leash areas?

While in designated off-leash zones, you must:

- Carry a leash, chain, or cord that is in good condition, to be used as needed.
- Ensure your dog wears a properly fitted collar, harness, or halter with an up-to-date council registration tag.
- Actively supervise your dog and always maintain an unobstructed view.
- Keep your dog within 50 meters to ensure effective recall.
- Train your dog to respond reliably to recall commands, either verbal or by hand signal.
- Prevent your dog from intimidating or harming people or other animals.
- Immediately leash your dog and leave the area if it shows aggression or attacks.
- Ensure that your dog does not disturb wildlife or damage the environment.
- Be aware of other park users and limit your dog's interaction with them unless consent is given.
- Follow all posted signs regarding dog behaviour and park rules.

Cleaning up after your dog

- Owners must collect and dispose of their dog's waste properly, always carrying suitable tools like bags or a pooper scooper.
- Dog waste can spread diseases; keeping our community clean is paramount.

Consideration for others in off-leash areas

- Off-leash areas are shared spaces, and not everyone may be comfortable around dogs.
- Prevent your dog from jumping on people or rushing at other dogs. Always check with other dog owners before allowing interactions.
- If your dog does not respond well to recall or is difficult to control, keep it leashed.
- Consider professional training to improve off-leash behaviour.

Council Offices

25 Ferres Boulevard,
South Morang VIC 3752

Mail to: Locked Bag 1,
Bundoora MDC VIC 3083

Email: info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Website: whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Phone: 9217 2170



Free telephone
interpreter service
131 450

Walking your dog



Find your nearest off-leash dog park in the City of Whittlesea

We encourage dog owners to make use of these parks, which also offer the chance to get some exercise, contribute to your own health and well-being, and meet other dog owners.



Dog owners must keep all dogs under effective control and clean up after them.

Under effective control means:

- the dog must return to its owner on command
- the dog must not bother or worry other people or animals

