

Leash-Free Mississauga

Promoting responsible dog ownership and the well-being of dogs

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What is Leash-Free Mississauga?

Leash-Free Mississauga (LFM) is a non-profit, volunteer organization, which promotes, through education and example, the responsibility of every dog owner for the behaviour and well-being of his/her dog(s).

We work in conjunction and affiliation with the City of Mississauga to find, establish, maintain and organize specific areas where dog owners can exercise and socialize their pets without infringing on the rights or sensibilities of people without dogs.

The existence of Leash-Free Zones enables us to communicate with the many dog owners who frequent these areas. Owners can share experiences and training techniques to expand their knowledge and ability to better understand their dogs' needs.

How is Leash-Free Mississauga funded?

LFM is a strictly volunteer organization. We rely entirely on memberships, donations, corporate sponsorship and fundraising efforts to establish and support our leash-free zones.

When leash-free zones were first approved and established, the City of Mississauga covered the initial costs of fencing and the necessary improvements, with the understanding that all costs would be repaid over an agreed period of time. We have repaid the funds for the development of our parks and when new parks are established, we will continue to repay the costs.

Why become a member?

We need as much support as possible to keep the zones fully functional and safe for our dogs. The City needs to know that Leash-Free zones are a vital part of our community and your membership shows in numbers and dollars that not only are the existing leash-free zones fully used but that future zones have a greater chance of success.

Your membership entitles you to use all leash-free zones in Mississauga, attend the Annual General Meeting and receive a copy of our newsletter, ***Dog Tales***.

Membership costs \$10 per year for one dog or \$15 per year for two or more dogs, with 70% of the funds going to LFM and 30% going to the local zone to cover maintenance expenses (where a local organizing group exists).

How does LFM work?

Each leash-free area has its own organizing group, which is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the park, as well as local fundraising. Each park has a liaison to the Leash-free Mississauga Committee, which meets every month (except July and August) at the Mississauga Central Library. There are 4 elected members of the LFM Committee, which has overall responsibility for all the leash-free zones and is the liaison with the City of Mississauga.

Please be aware that leash-free areas still require you to have your dog under control at all times and to scoop the poop.

Where can I find the Mississauga Leash-Free Zones?

Name of Park	Size	Organizing Group	Location	Description
Etobicoke Valley	1.3 acres	None	South Creek Rd (south of Dundas near West Mall) Ward 1	Bordering Etobicoke Creek, this area is not fully fenced and the area is left natural and uncut. Be prepared for some burrs, possible poison ivy and be aware that you are using an area that coyotes live in. Supervise your dog at all times.
Garnetwood	1.5 acres	Pause for Paws	Burnhamthorpe Rd at Ponytrail Dr (east of Dixie Rd) Ward 3	A full fenced (chain link) park, located within a larger, public park. Due to the size of the park, we recommend that dogs be neutered/spayed.
Jack Darling	2 acres	Responsible Dog Owners Group (RDOG)	South of Lakeshore Rd, between Lorne Park Rd and Silverbirch Ward 2	Due to Region of Peel construction the original 20 acre site is closed until approximately 2011. An alternative Leash Free Zone is located by the tennis courts. (due to parking restrictions the Leash Free Zone is not available from 11 am to 7 pm weekends and Holiday Mondays between Victoria Day to Labour Day).
Lakeside	1,6 acres	RDOG	Lakeshore Rd, west of Petro Canada Refinery (between Southdown and Winston Churchill) Ward 2	Fully fenced park on Lake Ontario. Due to the size of the park, we recommend that only neutered/spayed dogs use this area. Park will be temporarily closed later in 2009 through to 2011, an alternative Leash Free Zone will be available at Petro Canada Park on Southdown Road west side.
Quennippenon Meadows	1.4 acres		Erin Mills Rd, north of Erin Centre Blvd (Streetsville Pumping Station) Ward 9	Relocated May 2006, this is a fully fenced park.
Parkway Belt	3.2 acres	None	Kennedy Rd/Eglinton off Indian Summer Trail. Ward 5	Park opened May 2005, is fully fenced with additional fencing at bottom. It is located about 100 yards from the parking lot off Indian Summer Trail. Dogs must be leashed outside the zone.
Totoredaca	3.5 acres	Puppy Club	Meadowpine Blvd, west of Mississauga Rd, north of Derry Ward 9	Relocated in May 2004. Fully fenced with chain link fence. It has lights, running water as well as separate area for small dogs.