

Professional dog walkers

Professional dog walkers using the parks and green spaces in Milton Keynes need a licence to operate. This licence is very easy to apply for and currently free.

We license operators to ensure that:

- Professional dog walkers are fully insured
- All activities are fully risk assessed
- Professional dog walkers are following DEFRA guidelines
- All activities follow The Parks Trust code of conduct for walking dogs in Milton Keynes parks
- Access to and use of public parks is not inhibited by any activities

To enquire about applying for a commercial dog walking licence, please contact the Events and Community Engagement Manager on **01908 233600** or **events@theparkstrust.com**



With the cooperation of responsible dog owners we can keep the parks free from dog mess and ensure they remain attractive places for everyone to visit.

For more information about how to enjoy the parks with your dogs please visit our website www.theparkstrust.com



We are the charity caring for your parks, woodlands and lakes forever.

www.theparkstrust.com
01908 233600



The Parks Trust
MILTON KEYNES

Enjoying the parks with your dogs



How you can help us ensure the parks in Milton Keynes remain beautiful, exciting places to visit by being a responsible dog owner

We are the charity caring for your parks, woodlands and lakes forever.

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We love to see you and your pet enjoying our beautiful parks, woodlands and lakes. However, we need your help to ensure they remain this way forever.

Being a responsible dog owner

A wide variety of people visit our parks for lots of different reasons and we maintain them for everyone to enjoy. While dogs are welcome at the vast majority of our parks, they must be kept under control at all times. Remember that the Countryside Code does apply in Milton Keynes.

We do have some sites where dogs are not permitted and in others we may ask that dogs are kept on a lead throughout. Please follow the park's signs where applicable.

Park etiquette:

- Train your dog so that they are always under your control. Look out for horse riders, cyclists, joggers and small children
- Remember some people (including some young children) are wary and nervous of dogs, so please try to prevent your dog from rushing up to people. This might include putting excitable dogs on leads in busy areas
- Some dogs are nervous of other dogs, so please take this into consideration
- Keep your dog on a lead near roads and where there are grazing animals
- Please bag your dog waste and put it in a bin or take it home if there is no bin - do not use the stick and flick method
- Don't allow your dog to chase wildlife
- Take care that your dog doesn't disturb ground nesting birds. We have a 'dogs on leads' policy at Floodplain Forest Nature Reserve and Linford, Shenley and Howe Park Woods
- Make sure your dog is wearing a collar tag with your contact details in case you get separated

Dog bins

The Parks Trust does not provide dog bins, but works with local parish councils that wish to install them. Where dog bins or litter bins are not provided we would ask responsible dog owners to take the bagged dog mess out of the park.

As a self-financing charity that looks after over 6,000 acres of parkland, the cost of installing, emptying and replacing dog bins is too high to maintain.

It would cost us over £300,000 in the first year to install bins and we believe our money is better spent on managing the landscape, educational activities, events and creating and maintaining beautiful parks for people and wildlife.



Dog fouling and the law

Allowing your dog to foul in a public place or leaving dog waste in a bag in a park is an offence, so you could be fined or even prosecuted.

Dog fouling and health

Dog fouling can be harmful to human health; after three weeks the mess becomes infectious. People, especially young children, can get worm infections called Toxocariasis - symptoms include eye disorders, flu, dizziness, nausea and asthma.

Grazing animals

Sheep and other livestock, such as cattle and ponies can be found in many areas of our parkland; they are great for helping to graze our land as they do it far more sensitively than mowers and allow beautiful wildflowers to grow and insects to thrive.

Please remember to keep your pet on a lead around grazing livestock - no matter how well trained they are they may give chase. Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 it is an offence to allow your dog to worry sheep. Remember, dogs can legally be seized and/or destroyed if they are endangering or worrying sheep.

Animals regularly graze in the following areas; Blue Bridge Balancing Lake, Campbell Park, Floodplain Forest Nature Reserve, Ouse Valley Park, Ouzel Valley Park, The Toot - Shenley Church End, Tombs Meadow and Wolverton Mill Balancing Lake.

