

## **Dog parks are ....**

... designated public areas where dogs can safely and legally socialize, play, and exercise off-leash. Dog parks are becoming increasingly popular thanks to responsible pet owners and community agencies and officials who realize their important role in improving not only the quality of life for dogs, but for all of us." *–Humane Society of the United States*

### **... good for dogs.**

- Just like humans, dogs need regular exercise. Designated off-leash areas allow dogs to run and play freely.
- Dogs are social animals, and off-leash areas allow dogs to socialize and play with other dogs, providing them with the stimulation they need to be happy and healthy.
- Dog parks are shown to improve the behavior and health of animals by allowing them to practice appropriate social behavior and get the physical activity they need.

### **... good for dog owners.**

- Dog parks provide an opportunity for pet owners to meet and socialize with other dog-lovers.
- Dog parks provide a safe environment for owners to run their dog.
- Dog parks provide a convenient and fun social forum for dog owners to share information on responsible pet ownership.
- It's fun to watch the dogs play.

### **... good for communities.**

- Dog parks give owners a designated place to let their dogs run off-leash, thus decreasing the number of dogs running off-leash throughout parks, fields and other open areas. This prevents encounters between loose dogs and joggers, children, or those who may be fearful of, or allergic to dogs.
- Dog parks provide "positive traffic" in a park, discouraging crime by providing a constant presence of people and barking dogs in the park area.