

Hannah More BARC Park Member's Guide

The **dedicated volunteers** of the BARC Park appreciate your help in maintaining and caring for the park to make it a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Mission Statement

The BARC Park at Hannah More was established in 2007 by a volunteer committee under the auspices of the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks and the Reisterstown Recreation and Parks Council. It is intended to provide a clean, safe, and secure off-leash area where well-behaved dogs can socialize, exercise and play. We welcome all dog lovers and friends of the park who are willing to abide by the park's guidelines.

Also, membership ensures that everyone who enters the park has read and agreed to follow the rules. This will make using the park a safer and more enjoyable experience. Volunteers and charitable contributions are always welcome. We need volunteers to help monitor the park, assist with administrative needs, and help with special events and projects.

FAQ's

What does the BARC stand for?

Baltimore Animal Recreation Center. It is a fenced area/park where dogs can run off-leash to exercise, relax, socialize, and have fun in a safe and secure area.

Why is the Dog Park for Members Only?

Membership is necessary because it is the only way to verify that dogs are licensed and immunized, thereby ensuring the safety and healthy well-being of all dogs and handlers. Also, membership ensures that everyone who enters the park has read and agreed to follow the rules. This will make using the park a safer and more enjoyable experience.

Is a Dog Park appropriate for all dogs?

No. If your dog acts fearful, aggressive, or bullies other dogs, you should not use the dog park.

Where is the Dog Park?

It is at Hannah More in Reisterstown to the right of the children's "Sunshine Playground" on the back side of the property.

When is the Dog Park open?

The BARC Park is open from sunrise to sunset, every day, regardless of weather.

Where does the Membership money go?

All membership money goes toward the operation and maintenance of the park, making improvements, adding equipment, and holding special events. We hope to purchase dog play equipment and shade structures, plant trees, plan special events and design a dog walk path.

How to Join?

B.A.R.C. Park at Hannah More is a Members-Only Dog Park. All members must show proof of a County Dog License. To become a member or for more information, visit our website at <https://rrc.mybarkpass.com/>.

Who are the Board Members?

Volunteers who attend the park with their dogs. Any questions, concerns, comments you can contact the email barcpark-president@reisterstownrec.com. A board member will respond to your email.

How can I help?

Volunteers and charitable contributions are always welcome. We need volunteers to help monitor the park, assist with administrative needs, and help with special events and projects.

Know When to Stay and When to Leave

- Observe the park before you enter. If there are many unfamiliar dogs or a group of dogs bullying the current park goers, you may want to return when the park is less busy.
- Allow any new dog entering the park a chance to acclimate.
- Tired and stressed dogs do not react appropriately to difficult situations.
- Intervene when play gets too rough or your dog becomes over-excited.

Knowing the Difference between Appropriate Play Vs. Inappropriate Play

New dog owners occasionally have difficulty in understanding what constitutes inappropriate versus appropriate play. Your dog will always follow your lead. Remember to remain calm when interacting with other members and their pets. If you are unsure if something is appropriate or inappropriate, we've put together a short list.

| Appropriate Play | Inappropriate Play |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Moderate Barking | Bullying |
| Wrestling | Mounting |
| Pawing | Body Slamming |
| Mouthing | Charging |
| Play-Bowing | Baring Teeth |
| Chasing | Cornering |
| | Crowding |
| | Snarling |
| | Lunging |
| | Snapping |
| | Biting |

Stress Warnings signs are given by your dog – you always need to pay attention to your pet. Consider leaving the park if your dog shows signs of stress.

| Signs of Stress | Pack Behavior | Relentless Chasing |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Raising hackles | Multiple dogs chasing | Not letting the other dog |
| Yawning | one dog | rest or get away |
| Cowering | | |
| Hiding | | |
| Trying to leave | | |
| Pinning ears back | | |

How To Handle a Dog Fight

- If a dog corrects another dog for rude behavior and the correction is quick, fair, does no harm and ends as soon as the offending dog backs off, no intervention is needed.
- Sudden, quick disagreements with lots of noise that end in a matter of seconds are normal, and it is probably safe to allow the dogs to remain in the park if neither shows any inclination to continue the argument.
- Interrupt any situation that seems to be escalating by creating distraction or removing your dog.
- Use your voice in a calm but commanding way to stop the fight. Screaming simply increases the arousal of the dogs involved.
- DO NOT place your hands into the middle of a dog fight to separate dogs. If physical intervention is needed, try to grab the back legs of your dog and “wheelbarrow” them until he calms down. Fighting dogs will often strike at anything that moves near their face, and human hands are far more delicate than most areas where one dog will bite another.

- If you see or hear a squabble between other dogs, get your dog immediately and take him away from the area.
- Do not panic. The louder the fight, the more bluff and bluster is involved, the less damage. Most dog fights between similar size dogs do not result in serious injury.
- Once a fight occurs, the adrenaline levels of the dogs involved will rise for several hours. Remove these dogs from the park and exercise them elsewhere to avoid the potential of another fight.

In Case of a Fight with Injury

Download and complete the Bite/Incident Claim Report within 24 hours of the incident.

[Available at <https://rrc.mybarkpass.com/>]

Once the form is received, please complete the form within 24 hours. Keep one copy in the community office. Send the original, along with two copies to Area Coordinator's office, to be forwarded to the Chief of Recreation Services.