

Dog park rankings for the 100 largest U. S. cities, 2019



Introduction / Executive Summary

Based on annual research undertaken by the Trust for Public Land through our annual City Parks Survey, the Center for City Park Excellence has determined that dog parks, also known as “off-leash dog areas,” are among the fastest growing park amenities in the combined parks systems of the 100 largest US cities. There are currently 810 dedicated dog parks in the 100 largest cities, an increase of 37 over last year. Many public-park agencies now have ordinances and sets of design standards that govern the creation and ongoing maintenance and operation of dog parks. However, we find that what most makes dog parks successful is strong collaboration between the public-park agencies, the surrounding community, and a local dog-advocacy group, most-often composed of volunteers that have a strong ownership stake in the dog park.

Current dog park numbers

The number of dog parks continued to grow in 2018, to 810 in the 100 largest cities. This represents a 74 percent increase since 2009, when there were 466 off-leash areas in these cities.

Year	Number of Dog Parks	Change in numbers	Change in percentage from prior year	Growth since 2009
2019	810	37	4.8%	+ 344
2018	773	37	5.0%	+ 307
2017	736	55	8.1%	+ 270
2016	681	37	5.7%	+ 215
2015	644			+ 178
2009	466			

Dog parks are among the fastest-growing amenities in the 100 largest U.S. cities’ park systems, and the top cities may be surprising. We calculate rank based on the number of dog parks for every 100,000 residents. For more information and other park data, look for our annual ParkScore® report, to be released May 22nd, 2019.

City	Population	Total Dog Parks	Per 100,000 residents
1. Boise, ID	227,531	13	5.7
2. Portland, OR	652,565	35	5.4
3. Henderson, NV	298,927	15	5.0
4. Norfolk, VA	249,954	12	4.8

City	Population	Total Dog Parks	Per 100,000 residents
5. San Francisco, CA	878,294	35	4.0
5. Tampa, FL	379,551	15	4.0
7. Las Vegas, NV	639,625	25	3.9
7. Madison, WI	258,275	10	3.9
9. Oakland, CA	420,486	16	3.8
10. Arlington, VA	227,454	8	3.5
11. Fremont, CA	230,734	6	2.6
12. Jersey City, NJ	278,539	7	2.5
13. Albuquerque, NM	571,471	14	2.4
13. Sacramento, CA	500,667	12	2.4
15. Anchorage, AK	303,421	7	2.3
15. St. Petersburg, FL	260,094	6	2.3
15. Pittsburgh, PA	310,884	7	2.3
18. Bakersfield, CA	383,573	8	2.1
18. Long Beach, CA	480,903	10	2.1
20. Chesapeake, VA	246,615	5	2.0
20. Seattle, WA	710,295	14	2.0
22. Washington, DC	688,642	13	1.9
22. Lexington, KY	323,298	6	1.9
24. Chula Vista, CA	272,387	5	1.8
24. Denver, CO	714,708	13	1.8
24. Boston, MA	674,913	12	1.8
27. Colorado Springs, CO	471,059	8	1.7
27. New York, NY	8,679,888	145	1.7
27. Minneapolis, MN	419,897	7	1.7
30. St. Louis, MO	315,273	5	1.6

City	Population	Total Dog Parks	Per 100,000 residents
31. Tucson, AZ	541,841	8	1.5
31. Durham, NC	271,001	4	1.5
31. Chandler, AZ	275,654	4	1.5
34. Lincoln, NE	287,896	4	1.4
35. Austin, TX	969,733	13	1.3
35. Fresno, CA	528,920	7	1.3
35. Des Moines, IA	227,308	3	1.3
35. St. Paul, MN	305,840	4	1.3
35. Cincinnati, OH	308,969	4	1.3
40. Irving, TX	243,678	3	1.2
40. Glendale, AZ	247,804	3	1.2
40. Scottsdale, AZ	249,005	3	1.2
40. Reno, NV	255,055	3	1.2
40. Nashville, TN	684,946	8	1.2
45. San Diego, CA	1,405,422	16	1.1
45. Aurora, CO	370,647	4	1.1
45. Raleigh, NC	469,363	5	1.1
48. Orlando, FL	286,678	3	1.0
48. Greensboro, NC	288,594	3	1.0
48. San Jose, CA	1,040,606	10	1.0
48. Stockton, CA	313,009	3	1.0
52. Detroit, MI	656,573	6	0.9
52. Louisville, KY	774,250	7	0.9
52. Chicago, IL	2,768,416	25	0.9
52. San Antonio, TX	1,457,400	13	0.9
52. Miami, FL	453,952	4	0.9

City	Population	Total Dog Parks	Per 100,000 residents
52. Baton Rouge, LA	233,114	2	0.9
58. Atlanta, GA	477,371	4	0.8
58. North Las Vegas, NV	243,535	2	0.8
58. Winston-Salem, NC	246,224	2	0.8
58. Kansas City, MO	497,311	4	0.8
58. Buffalo, NY	260,157	2	0.8
58. Lubbock, TX	260,624	2	0.8
58. Gilbert, AZ	261,287	2	0.8
58. New Orleans, LA	392,887	3	0.8
66. Wichita, KS	400,599	3	0.7
66. Phoenix, AZ	1,616,300	12	0.7
66. Toledo, OH	278,978	2	0.7
66. El Paso, TX	698,533	5	0.7
66. Columbus, OH	876,962	6	0.7
66. Houston, TX	2,358,708	16	0.7
72. Virginia Beach, VA	461,588	3	0.6
72. Riverside, CA	321,943	2	0.6
72. Memphis, TN	662,038	4	0.6
72. Corpus Christi, TX	337,094	2	0.6
72. Anaheim, CA	359,477	2	0.6
72. Jacksonville, FL	907,722	5	0.6
78. Charlotte/Mecklenburg County, NC	1,092,533	6	0.5
78. Cleveland, OH	381,226	2	0.5
78. Arlington, TX	389,547	2	0.5
78. Milwaukee, WI	587,575	3	0.5
78. Honolulu, HI	1,014,168	5	0.5

City	Population	Total Dog Parks	Per 100,000 residents
78. Baltimore, MD	613,084	3	0.5
78. Tulsa, OK	415,675	2	0.5
85. Oklahoma City, OK	673,590	3	0.4
85. Omaha, NE	450,466	2	0.4
85. Philadelphia, PA	1,591,765	7	0.4
85. Mesa, AZ	501,137	2	0.4
85. Laredo, TX	268,976	1	0.4
85. Irvine, CA	270,731	1	0.4
85. Dallas, TX	1,356,896	5	0.4
92. Fort Worth, TX	882,972	3	0.3
92. Plano, TX	295,013	1	0.3
92. Los Angeles, CA	4,002,721	13	0.3
95. Santa Ana, CA	342,217	0	0.0
95. Newark, NJ	284,054	0	0.0
95. Hialeah, FL	233,504	0	0.0
95. Garland, TX	244,303	0	0.0

¹ The 100 largest US cities are surveyed annually via the City Park survey, administered by the Center for City Park Excellence at the Trust for Public Land. Results are reported in both City Park Facts and ParkScore®, both available at <http://www.tpl.org>. The 100 largest cities contain 65.9 million residents or about 20 percent of the US population.